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Fanart!

[image]

By @Benussssssss

[image]

By LittleNoodleRaven67

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[image]

By PurpleHeartDrawz

[image]

By MellowAxolotl

Thank you all for submitting Fanart!

Chapter 1

Icekit snuggled against Squirrelflight, her eyes half closed with content. Ashfur sat beside Squirrelflight, watching, while Squirrelflight gave her kits' ears a happy lick. Jayfeather sat back with a begrudging look to Squirrelflight.

"Icekit is healthy." Jayfeather grumbled.

Squirrelflight seemed unbothered by her adopted son's attitude.

"Look at her eyes. Don't they remind you of the sea?" Squirrelflight replied.

"I can't say. I've never seen the sea before." Ashfur said flatly.

Squirrelflight nudged him. "Don't be angry."

"Of course I'm angry. I've only just found out that those three," Ashfur indicated to Jayfeather, "Aren't my kits! You've been lying to me for moons!"

Icekit shifted slightly.

"I said I was sorry."

"This is all very wonderful," Jayfeather snapped, ushering Ashfur out of the nursery, "But if you don't mind, Squirrelflight needs rest."

Jayfeather gave Ashfur a slight shove out the nursery. Firestar and Sandstorm looked up as) Jayfeather and Ashfur exited the nursery.

"How is Squirrelflight and the kits?" Sandstorm asked.

"There's only one kit. There would have been more if Jayfeather had done his job correctly." Ashfur snarled.

"The other two were born dead!" Jayfeather growled.

Firestar rested his tail tip on Jayfeather's shoulder. "I'm sure Jayfeather did the best he could." Firestar soothed.

"Well, the best wasn't enough." Ashfur muttered, padding away and sitting in a shadow in the corner of the camp.

Brambleclaw watched the entire conversation with a dark, unreadable expression. Slowly, he stood up and entered the nursery quietly. Squirrelflight looked up from her kit, looking slightly surprised.

"How is the kit?" Brambleclaw asked, his voice straining to keep from emotion.

"She's fine. I named her Icekit. Isn't she perfect?" Squirrelflight purred.

No. "Yes." Brambleclaw's voice was strangely void of any emotion.

Squirrelflight looked up anxiously. "You're not upset, are you?"

Brambleclaw sighed. "No. The kit is fine."

Brambleclaw felt as if fox claws were tearing at his heart as the kit opened her eyes, which were almost identical to Ashfur's. He shivered at the sight of them, and forced himself not to look away. Still suppressing a scowl, Brambleclaw stormed out of the nursery.

Chapter 2

Icekit rolled out of the nursery, stumbling to her paws. A hunting patrol of her father, Ashfur, Dustpelt, Cloudtail, and Berrynose strode into camp, dropping the prey at the fresh-kill pile. Icekit glanced at it momentarily, but shook out her ginger fur with grey specks.

"Ashfur! Ashfur, you promised to teach me a hunting crouch!" Icekit bounced at his paws.

"You aren't going to catch any prey by jumping through the forest like that." Ashfur meowed sternly, although his whiskers twitched with amusement. Icekit held perfectly still and crouched, her tail still sticking high in the air.

"How about now?"

Ashfur reached out with one paw and gently tugged Icekit's tail lower.

"You can't wave your tail around in the air like that when you're hunting, and don't put all your energy in your front paws." Ashfur advised.

"I thought you said this was easy." Icekit argued.

"Nothing's easy. But it's worth it, and you get better the more you practice." Ashfur replied calmly.

"Why do you get mad at Squirrelflight some times?" Icekit probed.

"I- wait what?"

"You argue with Squirrelflight about lies and Leafpool and kits. What's all that about?" Icekit responded in a very matter-of-fact voice.

"That's nothing a kit like you needs to worry about." Ashfur blinked. "Besides, me and Squirrelflight are fine now."

"Icekit! It's time for your nap!" Squirrelflight called from the nursery.

"But I'm not tired! Ashfur's teaching me a hunting crouch!" Icekit whined.

"You need to sleep if you want to become a warrior one day." Squirrelflight poked her head out of the nursery.

"But I never see Jayfeather hunting." Icekit retorted.

"Jayfeather is a medicine cat."

"What about Leafpool?" Icekit tried.

"She's a medicine cat too. Now, come on. It's getting late." Squirrelflight soothed gently.

Icekit sighed and slipped back into the nursery, snuggling next to Squirrelflight and closing her eyes to sleep. Beyond the bramble walls of the nursery, Jayfeather watched silently alongside Lionblaze as Icekit entered the nursery, both of them with thoughtful expressions.

*** ***Five moons later***

Icekit sat proudly beneath the rocky ledge as Firestar took his place at the top of the Highrock. Greystripe sat beneath him in front of the crowd of cats assembled to watch. Squirrelflight gave Icekit's ruffled fur a few nervous yet happy licks while Ashfur sat beside her, his fur fluffed with happiness and his eyes shining.

"Let all those old enough to catch their own prey gather here beneath the Highrock for a clan meeting." Firestar's call echoed through the camp although every cat was already waiting to watch.

Imagine if I slip up or make a mistake- it would be in front of everyone!

Icekit's thoughts were interrupted when she snapped back to reality and saw Firestar calling her up to the Highrock. Icekit scrambled up and sat in front of him, her eyes wide as she stared up at the ginger tom.

"Icekit, do you promise to protect your clanmates even at the cost of your life?"

Icekit stared up at him in awe and hope as she mewed, "I do."

"Then by the powers of Starclan, I give you your new name. Icekit, from this day forward you will be known as Icepaw, and Brambleclaw will be your mentor." Firestar announced.

Ashfur's eyes darkened and Squirrelflight shifted as they watched Brambleclaw pad over to Icepaw and touch noses with her.

"I'll be a great apprentice." Icepaw whispered to him.

He blinked his amber eyes and didn't respond, and Icepaw started to wonder if he had heard her.

"Icepaw!"

"Icepaw!"

"Icepaw!"

Thoughts of her new mentor were quickly chased out of her mind as she beamed at her clanmates calling her new name. Surprisingly, Jayfeather had a thoughtful look instead of his usual snarky snarl. Icepaw turned to her parents as Squirrelflight licked her ears.

"We're so proud of you."

"I'll be a great warrior!" Icepaw promised.

"I'm sure you will." Ashfur purred.

Icepaw turned around and saw Brambleclaw watching her from across the clearing, an expressionless mask clouding his emotions.

I wonder what's going on in his head.

Chapter 3

Icepaw copied the crouch Brambleclaw had shown her and glanced up at him hopefully.

"You need to stretch you front paws more forward."

Icepaw sighed and stretched her front paws out.

"No, not that far out."

Icepaw struggled not to lash her tail in frustration. "Why does it matter if my front paws are an inch forward or not?"

"When you are hunting, you are feeding the clan. If you can't take that seriously, perhaps you shouldn't be a warrior."

Icepaw gaped at him, shocked. Was he really suggesting her to give up her dream of being a warrior?

"I want to help my Clan!"

Icepaw wondered if that was slight sympathy showing in his eyes. "Some cats have to train harder than others."

Icepaw stopped crouching and stared up at him. "But I'm loyal. And I do train hard!"

Brambleclaw's expression shifted as she stared up at him without blinking.

"I know. Let's try going out and hunting. Remember what I taught you about the hunting crouch." Brambleclaw added.

"Okay!"

Icepaw bounced after Brambleclaw and looked around the forest.

"Stay quiet." Brambleclaw whispered as he crept forward.

Icepaw froze suddenly. A soft, crackle of nuts cracking together caused her to angle her ears to the right, where a plump squirrel was seated. Brambleclaw nodded at her, then took a step back.

He's going to let me catch it! I can't let him down!

Icepaw slid into the hunter's crouch and placed one paw slowly forward. She slipped the next paw ahead, careful not to snap any branches or cause any pebbles or nuts to tumble. Just a few fox-lengths away now... almost there... just three tail-lengths away now...

Icepaw lunged, unsheathing her fangs and reaching for the squirrel. It bobbed its furry red tail, then darted beneath Icepaw, who reached underneath her belly to reach it, but slipped on her own paws, crushing the squirrel beneath her. The squirrel struggled, but Icepaw's hind legs had landed right on top of it.

"Well, that's one way to catch prey." Brambleclaw noted, although his whiskers were twitching with amusement.

Icepaw finished off the squirrel, then picked it up happily. "I caught it!"

"You crushed it." Brambleclaw corrected.

"It's still caught, and no cat can argue with that. Maybe I've invented a new way to catch prey!" Icepaw meowed happily.

"Let's go take it back to camp."

Icepaw struggled to drag the fat squirrel all the way, but it was worth it when she saw the looks on her clanmates' faces.

"I knew you'd be a great warrior!" Ashfur purred.

Brambleclaw's expression slipped into something that looked alarmingly similar to a scowl, before the look was quickly wiped away and his emotions locked beneath his amber eyes. Icepaw blinked in surprise at him, but was distracted when she spotted

Squirrelflight talking solemnly with Firestar.

"What's wrong?" Icepaw nodded at where Squirrelflight and Firestar were sitting.

"Oh, nothing." Ashfur told her a little too quickly.

"I'm not a mouse-brain." Icepaw put the squirrel down on the fresh-kill pile, pausing when she noticed Jayfeather and Lionblaze staring ominously towards her.

"Why is every cat acting strange?"

"Jayfeather's always strange." Ashfur snorted.

Icepaw opened her mouth to respond just as Squirrelflight and Firestar padded over.

"Icepaw," Firestar began, "Have you ever had any strange dreams?"

Icepaw blinked in surprise at him. "What? Every cat has weird dreams."

Squirrelflight blinked in slight sympathy to Icepaw. "Are you sure being a warrior is the best way you want to help your Clan?"

Icepaw gaped at Squirrelflight, not even understanding her at first. "You mean...be a medicine cat? And spend the whole day sitting in a stuffy den looking at leaves?"

"You could just try it." Firestar suggested.

"Why are you punishing me? Look what I caught! I'm good at being a warrior!" Icepaw pointed her tail at where her squirrel was positioned proudly at the top.

"This is not a punishment, Icepaw." Squirrelflight placed her tail-tip on Icepaw's shoulder. "Just try it."

"But...but..."

Icepaw stared at Squirrelflight. How could such a massive change

have been about to happen to her without any warning? And most of all,

Why me?!

Chapter 4

Icepaw sniffed at the dark black seeds piled in front of her and spoke confidently. "Poppy seeds." ***Fox dung! Why does this have to be so easy when I hate being a medicine cat?***

"And this?" Icepaw's new mentor, Jayfeather, pointed his muzzle at a clump of dark green leaves.

"Oak leaves." Icepaw wished this job was harder so that Firestar would consider making her a warrior apprentice again.

"What are poppy seeds for?" Jayfeather's always irritated voice snapped Icepaw out of her daydreaming of hunting in the forest.

"Oh. Wait, what?" Icepaw struggled to remember what Jayfeather had asked through the fog in her mind.

"Icepaw! Focus! Every medicine cat knows what poppy seeds are for!" Jayfeather snapped.

"I do know! They're for pain and making a cat sleep, but using too much of them is dangerous." Icepaw felt her tail curl the way it always did when she was annoyed. If Firestar and Squirrelflight hadn't made her train as a medicine cat apprentice, she could be hunting or going on a border patrol.

"Go clean the elder's ticks." Jayfeather commanded.

"But I got the question right!" Icepaw tried.

"The elders need their ticks done, Icepaw." Jayfeather's usual scowl started to deepen.

"But-"

"Icepaw!"

Icepaw groaned and picked up a stick with a clump of moss hanging on it that was soaked in mouse bile and trudged to the elder's den. She spotted Greystripe, Cloudtail, Ashfur, and Squirrelflight returning from a hunting patrol with sweet smelling prey and frowned. Something was wrong with that prey.

"...plump crow was just lying there already dead, so I brought it back." Cloudtail had finished telling Greystripe as he placed the sweet-smelling crow on the fresh-kill pile. Something was wrong with it. Icepaw could tell.

"Shouldn't you be cleaning the elder's ticks?" Squirrelflight glanced up at Icepaw.

Icepaw gently placed the stick of mouse bile down and pulled the crow from the fresh-kill pile. She sliced her claw through it, aware of the stares coming from her clanmates.

"What are you doing?!" Cloudtail meowed.

Squirrelflight and Ashfur exchanged shocked looks before turning back to Icepaw. Ignoring the other cats, Icepaw pulled the crow apart, revealing maggots and rotten flesh. The cats froze and a few gasps came through the crowd.

"Who found this and where?" Firestar asked as he scanned his clanmates.

"I found it alone, dead." Cloudtail admitted, looking surprised. "How did you know it was rotten?"

"It smelled sweet. Didn't you smell it?" Icepaw frowned, shocked the overwhelming scent of crow-food hadn't flooded Cloudtail the moment he'd found the crow.

"I didn't smell anything." Cloudtail mewed honestly.

"None of us did." Ashfur added.

Jayfeather emerged from the medicine den and took a few paw steps forward. "All medicine cats have a keen sense of smell."

Icepaw frowned at Jayfeather, but his words seemed to calm the other cats.

"Oh, right..."

"Yeah."

Icepaw couldn't help not feeling reassured, despite how hard she tried to shrug off her feelings of suspicion that Jayfeather was hiding something.

Chapter 5

Dovepaw, Ivypaw, Cloudtail, and Firestar had just returned from a hunting patrol. I could see, even from my perch beneath the shade of the medicine den, that their prey was still plump from newleaf. I sighed, then continued staring at the dark herbs at my paws.

"Have you memorized them yet?" Jayfeather asked, irritated as usual. One way to tell if a disaster was coming was to see if Jayfeather wasn't irritated, or was more irritated than he always was.

"Yes." I droned in a monotonous voice. "If I do good, can I go back to being a warrior apprentice?"

Jayfeather scowled at me and flicked his tail-tip impatiently.

"What are poppy seeds for?"

"Pain, and making the cat sleep."

"Juniper berries." Jayfeather quizzed.

"Stomach aches."

"Deathberries."

"No uses. They kill just by touching the flesh or seeds."

"Dock leaves." Jayfeather questioned.

"They prevent infections, but if an infection has already set in, it's best to use marigold or horsetail." I replied, knowing I was perfectly right.

Jayfeather nodded and grunted something under his breath before adding, "You're done for the day."

I sighed in relief and scurried away as fast as my paws could carry me.

"Running away from Jayfeather?" Brambleclaw sounded faintly amused.

"He told me I was done for the day." I mewed, defensive.

Brambleclaw nodded and seemed in a better mood than usual. I turned around and stopped when I heard arguing coming from behind the nursery. I strained my ears to hear while appearing to be grooming my coat.

"...Always arguing!" I hear Squirrelflight's voice snap.

"...no...kits...lie..." Ashfur replied faintly.

"Leafpool...you...forgive..." Squirrelflight yowled back.

Ashfur stormed from behind the nursery and headed out of camp. Squirrelflight exited from behind the nursery too, and to my surprise, sat down next to Brambleclaw. I knew my mother and Brambleclaw used to be old friends, and that they'd travelled far, far, away together, but they hadn't talked that much lately. I glanced at the exit where Ashfur had left. What was going on?!

Chapter 6

Icepaw stretched and looked around. She was in a bright forest, full of lush greenery. To her disappointment, instead of picking out the scents of prey, she found herself automatically sniffing for any nearby herbs. High above her, a full moon shone luminously downwards, with sparkling, twinkling stars in the distance. Icepaw looked around, blinking, then jumped in surprise when she spotted three stars seeming to grow larger. At first, she thought it was her imagination, and yet slowly, surely, the three stars were enlarging.

"What?..." Icepaw found herself at loss for words.

"There will be three, who will hold the powers of the stars in their paws." The ominous voice rang in Icepaw's ears and echoed through the woods around her.

"Wait! No! I can't be having a vision! That means I'll have to be a medicine cat!" Icepaw couldn't help whining out, but to no avail.

"There will be three, who will hold the powers of the stars in their paws." The cat repeated.

"Stop it!"

"There will be three, who will hold the powers of the stars in their paws."

"No! Enough!"

"There will be three, who will hold the powers of the stars in their paws."

Icepaw wondered if Starclan was always this annoying with their messages. And why so cryptic? Icepaw smelled a familiar scent and whirled around, surprised.

"Jayfeather?"

Icepaw stared in confusion as Jayfeather padded towards her.

"Yes, mouse-brain."

"Wait, what?! Are you dead? Are you in Starclan now?!" Icepaw felt herself panicking.

"No. This is a dream, or rather a vision." Jayfeather replied.

"But you're in it." Icepaw mewed skeptically.

"That's because I'm one of The Three. I have the ability of sight in my dreams and the ability to walk in other cat's dreams." Jayfeather responded.

"Lionblaze is the second." Jayfeather continued when Icepaw didn't say anything.

"And you're the third."

Chapter 7

Icepaw woke up the moment her dream ended, her heart pounding. She thought she heard Jayfeather waking up too, but she figured he'd fallen back to sleep, since he stopped moving. She crept past Leafpool and Jayfeather, then slipped out of camp.

"What now?" Icepaw murmured to herself.

As if her paws were guiding her, Icepaw broke into a run through the forest. A sense of certainty settled in her chest, and somehow, she knew where she was going without knowing at the same time. It just felt right, wherever her paws were taking her. The forest thinned out into the moor, and soon, Icepaw found herself running in WindClan territory. She kept running at the same pace, and soon, she found herself climbing up to the moonpool.

"Why am I here?" Icepaw asked out loud, unsure if she was hoping for an answer.

Silence was the only reply she got, so Icepaw crouched down in front of the moonpool and hesitantly touched her nose to the icy, still surface. Blackness swam in her head, and suddenly Icepaw found herself in a bright, lush, forest again.

"Oh no. Not here again!" Icepaw couldn't help moaning even though she wasn't sure why she expected to be anywhere else since she had gone to the moonpool.

A dark grey colored she-cat stepped forward, her pelt sparkling with stars. "My name is Yellowfang."

Icepaw blinked blankly at Yellowfang. "Look, I'm pretty sure I'm not meant to be a medicine cat, so-"

"You are able to speak with StarClan." Yellowfang pointed out.

"True, but I'm meant to be a warrior!"

"How do you know that?" Yellowfang stared intensely at Icepaw.

"Because I feel it in my heart." Icepaw admitted. "I want to fight with my clanmates in battle, not heal their wounds afterwards. I want to hunt alongside them, not search for herbs."

Icepaw looked for any sign of sympathy in Yellowfang's gaze.

"Sometimes," Yellowfang began, "We think things are better for us when in reality, they're not."

"I know what's right for me!" Icepaw insisted. "I'm meant to be a warrior."

"You know, Jayfeather wanted to be a warrior at first too, but now he's a fully fledged medicine cat." Yellowfang pointed out.

"I'm meant to be a warrior." Icepaw stated firmly.

"Then why would you come to the moonpool, a place forbidden to any cat who is not a medicine cat?" Yellowfang questioned.

Icepaw sighed just as her surroundings began to swirl and fade until she was back at the moonpool, crouching in the same position she had been. Icepaw stumbled to her paws and barely made it back to camp before sunrise. The dawn patrol was already assembling, and Icepaw watched glumly from one corner. She hated to admit it, but after speaking with Yellowfang, she was slighly moved, as well as confused. What was she supposed to do now?

Is my fate set to be a warrior? Or am I meant to be a medicine cat?

Chapter 8

Icepaw shifted through the dusty pile of herbs sitting sadly at her paws. Clan life was peaceful, almost boring in fact. Icepaw sighed and sifted through the marigold and dock leaves, discarding the dried, brittle ones that had no use left. Icepaw paused and took a deep breath, straining her ears to hear. The sounds of squirrels, birds, mice, and all sorts of prey chirped in the forest. Icepaw's heart lifted as she heard the sounds of her clanmates near the WindClan border.

"Well done, Dovepaw!"

Icepaw heard Dovepaw's mentor congratulate her. Icepaw figured Dovepaw had caught something plump.

"Where's Ivypaw?"

Dovepaw's meow echoed in Icepaw's ears. Icepaw listened to the thumping and bellows in the forest and breathed in. Ivypaw's scent reached her, and she pinpointed Ivypaw around 15 tree-lengths from camp, although her paw steps echoed a strange way. Icepaw heard Ivypaw stumble, and listened more closely to the sounds of her paws. One thump. Two. Three. But the fourth paw didn't touch the forest floor.

"She must be limping!" Icepaw heard herself whisper out loud.

Icepaw shook the leaves from her fur and darted into the forest, leaping over shrubs and bushes until she found Ivypaw, stumbling through the forest on three paws.

"What happened?" Icepaw demanded.

"I was climbing a tree and -gasp- I fell. It wasn't that high but -gasp- I hit my paw and I can't walk on it and it's twisted."

Ivypaw looked hopefully behind Icepaw.

"Are Leafpool or Jayfeather with you?"

Icepaw ignored the sting from Ivypaw's comment and ran her paws over Ivypaw's twisted paw.

"It's dislocated." Icepaw announced. "But, I can fix it. It will hurt though. And I need some cat to hold you down."

"Are you sure- I mean, not that I doubt you, but, are you sure you know what you're doing?"

Icepaw rolled her eyes. "Oh, because you're asking if I'm sure because you believe in me. Who's the medicine cat here, you or me? Lie down."

Icepaw was surprised by her own words, then chuckled inwardly when she figured Jayfeather was rubbing off on her. Surprisingly, Ivypaw obeyed and lay down, although uncertainty was still in her eyes.

"Trust me. Just hold as still as you can, no matter how much pain you feel, okay?" Icepaw added in a softer tone.

"Okay." Ivypaw sounded scared. "Hawkfrost is going to be so mad." Ivypaw muttered.

"What? Who's Hawkfrost?" Icepaw blinked in confusion.

"Oh, no cat." Ivypaw mewed quickly.

Icepaw settled her paws in the right position, paused to give Ivypaw a moment to prepare herself, then shoved Ivypaw's paw intot he correct position. Ivypaw let out a yelp, and Icepaw could see her straining to keep still.

"Are you okay? How do you feel?" Icepaw blinked anxiously at her, suddenly worried. What if she had made things worse instead of better?!

"Actually... my leg hurts a lot less." Ivypaw seemed relieved. "Thank

you."

"Don't worry. Keep your weight off of it and I'll help you get back to camp." Icepaw felt a warm pride bubble up inside her. She'd treated her first patient correctly! Keyword: Correctly.

"Come on, don't sit there gawking all day." Icepaw added when Ivypaw didn't move.

"Oh, right." Ivypaw stood on all three paws and leaned on Icepaw until they got to camp.

By then, Icepaw could see that Ivypaw was feeling better, and she was putting a little more weight on her hind leg. Everyone rushed forward when they saw Ivypaw.

"Are you alright?" Whitewing blinked at Ivypaw nervously.

Ivypaw's mentor, Cinderheart, stepped forward. "There you are! We were wondering where you'd went! What happened to your hind leg?"

Ivypaw blinked happily at them. "I fell from a tree and dislocated it, but Icepaw helped me and now it feels almost completely better!"

"What?" An angry hiss came from the back of the crowd as Jayfeather stormed his way forward.

"Icepaw healed you on her own?!"

Icepaw gulped.

Chapter 9

Jayfeather glared at Icepaw with sightless, furious blue eyes.

"She did a good job," Ivypaw protested.

"Icepaw is still an apprentice! She could have done it wrong!" Jayfeather snarled.

Icepaw felt like she wanted to shrink in her pelt and hide under a rock from the embarrassment of being yelled at by Jayfeather in front of every cat.

"But she didn't," Ivypaw pointed out.

Leafpool padded out of the medicine den, a frown scrawled across her face. "What's going on here?"

"Icepaw treated Ivypaw's dislocated hind leg on her own, without permission." Jayfeather hissed.

"It wasn't like I could just leave Ivypaw alone and injured int he woods! Besides, I knew what I was doing." Icepaw couldn't help snapping at Jayfeather. Unfortunately, this was a terrible mistake.

"How dare you!?" Jayfeather's fur bristled up to twice it's size.

"Jayfeather, calm down," Leafpool placed a soothing tail on Jayfeather's shoulder. "Icepaw, Jayfeather is just worried that Ivypaw could have been hurt if you did anything wrong."

Gradually, the crowd of cats that had gathered began to dissolve as the mood in camp changed to a more calm one.

"Okay. I'm sorry, Jayfeather and Leafpool. And you too, Ivypaw." Icepaw shifted self-consciously on her paws.

Ivypaw shook her head. "I'm fine."

Leafpool nodded at Ivypaw. "Come into the medicine den, I'll just give you a quick check to make sure you're alright."

Ivypaw and Leafpool disappeared into the medicine den and Icepaw prepared herself for a scolding from Jayfeather. Instead, Jayfeather's fur flattened to normal and he and his brother, Lionblaze, blinked curiously at Icepaw.

"Icepaw," Lionblaze began, "Do you ever notice different things about yourself that other cats don't have?"

Icepaw frowned, confused. "What?"

"There's a prophecy," Jayfeather explained, "There will be three, kin of Firestar's kin, who will hold the power of the stars in their paws. Initially, we thought Hollyleaf was the third cat, but after she died," Jayfeather bowed his head, "We realized the third cat had to be someone else."

Icepaw gaped at them for a few moments before understanding. "You think... you think I'm the third cat?"

"You are the kin of Firestar's kin," Lionblaze pointed out, "And you hear and smell things other cats don't."

Icepaw swallowed, terrified for one small moment before feeling a rush of bravery and strength. She could do this. She was special. She was chosen by StarClan themselves! Suddenly, Icepaw knew she could change the world if she wanted to.

Quick Note

HeLlO! So basically, Icepaw was Dovewing's replacement (So sorry Dovewing fans! She's one of my favorite characters too!) and had her same powers too. However, I will be continuing the story from the sixth series now, and skipping ahead to where Icepaw is a full medicine cat, Leafpool has died in a rockslide, and Alderheart is also a full medicine cat. Also, after a lot of fights between Squirrelflight and Ashfur, Squirrelflight has gone back to Brambleclaw (Now Bramblestar) and Ashfur has died. Just a quick update of things before I continue from the series, 'The Broken Code'.

Chapter 10

(//: A.N: I will be writing all my author's notes at the tops of chapters now so that I don't have to make a separate page for them. By the way, the rest of this story will be in 3rd person unless I write that it's Icepaw's POV, or if there's a special chapter and it's someone else's POV. Also, this chapter is written a little before the first book of the series, 'A Broken Code'. Also, Icepaw has gotten her full name! Yay! Her new name is Icepool, in honor of her old mentor, Leafpool. Also, Violetshine and Tree are ThunderClan cats for this FanFiction. For all the Violetshine fans out there, I sincerely apologize for what is about to follow...

Icepool stood nervously outside of Bramblestar's den. Ever since Ashfur had died, she'd usually kept her real emotions hidden away, safely kept in her heart. And the worst part was... Squirrelflight had actually moved on. She'd chosen Bramblestar, that piece of fox-dung! Icepool didn't despise Bramblestar, and she didn't mean to be disrespectful to him either, but... but it wasn't fair that Squirrelflight had tried to replace Ashfur with him. It just wasn't.

Shaking venomous thoughts of Bramblestar out of her head, Icepool cleared her throat. Bramblestar was still her leader after all, and she was still loyal to him. As long as loyalty didn't mean personally accepting him as a replacement for Ashfur.

"Yes?" Bramblestar asked from inside his den.

Icepool stepped inside quietly and blinked at him. "Bramblestar, as you know, I've been training to be a medicine cat," Inwardly, Icepool groaned. That had sounded way too formal. "But I've considered it, and I really think my destiny is as a warrior."

Bramblestar looked surprised. "But you have a connection with StarClan. Surely that means our warrior ancestors want you to be a medicine cat."

Stop trying to make me unhappy! Icepool hissed in her head. "I have thought a lot about my decision," Icepool tried o explain, "And I truly think I'm meant to be a warrior."

"Have you talked to Squirrelflight about it?"

Icepool had to admit, ever since Ashfur died, she'd become a bit distant from her mother, Squirrelflight. And what had hurt her was that Squirrelflight didn't even seem to have noticed. She'd been to busy with when she'd had Alderheart and Sparkpelt. So, Icepool had decided that if Squirrelflight didn't care, she wouldn't care either. But she did. Deep down, in a place where Icepaw wouldn't admit existed, she did.

"Well, I think StarClan must agree that I should become a warrior because," Icepool felt her heart pounding wildly in her chest, "I'm with kits." There it was. She'd said it.

"You- with who?" Bramblestar looked genuinely shocked.

"Tree," Icepool replied, still nervous.

"Well then, I suppose you are really meant to be a warrior," Bramblestar mumbled, almost inaudiably.

"We already have Alderheart and Jayfeather as our medicine cats," Icepool pointed out.

"I will discuss this with my deputy, Squirrelflight," Bramblestar said at last.

Oh no, Icepool groaned in her head. "Actually, Squirrelflight doesn't really err... know I have kits."

Bramblestar blinked at her. "Well, I'll go speak to her about it," He meowed finally, a bit awkwardly.

What does Squirrelflight see in this cat? "Okay," Icepool agreed, even though her insides were churning into mush.

Icepool stumbled out of Bramblestar's den and nearly bumped into Tree.

"How did it go?" He asked.

"Bramblestar's going to talk to Squirrelflight about it." Icepool sighed. "And I'm sure she won't be happy with this."

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"I'm very happy with this," Squirrelflight told Icepool.

"You- wait what?" Icepool blinked at Squirrelflight, shocked.

"Well, I've noticed you've become a bit... distant. And now I know it's because you've been wanting to follow the path you believe is right for yourself; the path of a warrior."

Icepool felt layers of hard, painful rock melt away from her heart. *Squirrelflight had noticed after all! She had understood her*! "Well, I-" Icepool began.

"But, I did want to say that becoming distant just because you don't like your job is wrong," Squirrelflight said.

Icepool felt her feelings of elation deflate like a bubble and the stiff, painful rock covering her heart harden once more. *She doesn't understand me at all*. Flaming anger flared up inside Icepool.

"Well, maybe it's not because of what I'm doing. You wouldn't know, would you?" Icepool snapped.

Squirrelflight widened her eyes and leaned away. "What?"

Icepool whirled around and stormed off into the warrior's den. She curled up in the den at the far back and covered her face with her tail.

"Icepool? What's wrong?" Violetshine was sitting in her nest, grooming herself.

Icepool felt a flash of guilt, remembering that Violetshine had originally wanted to be Tree's mate. And yet, Violetshine had never blamed her.

"Oh...nothing." Icepool could never even begin to explain all the emotions inside her anyway.

***

Icepool watched as Bramblestar announced that she was a warrior once more from the top of the highrock. Squirrelflight sat at the front of the crowd of cats listening, beside Alderheart. Ivypool, Violetshine, Dovewing, Finleap, and Tigbranch sat behind Squirrelflight and Alderheart, blocking them from Icepool's view. Somehow, she could still feel Squirrelflight's sharp green gaze flashing through the cats and watching her. Icepool had managed to avoid Squirrelflight at all costs in the last few days, mostly spending time with other cats and Tree, who was excited to his first kits.

"What will we name them?" Tree had asked. "I like the name Rootkit." He added.

Icepool nodded. "Rootkit and..." Icepool had thought about how Violetshine had never blamed her for being Tree's mate, then Icepool had thought about Violetshine's old friend, Needletail. "Rootkit and Needlekit." Icepool had concluded.

Icepool could feel the kits squirming inside her. She felt some sort of nervous excitement, a bit like when she'd first gone hunting when she was an apprentice with her old mentor, Bramblestar. A mix of, *What if I do something wrong*? and *This is so amazing*!

"...We welcome Icepool back as a full warrior of ThunderClan," Bramblestar finally finished.

"Icepool!"

"Icepool!"

"Icepool!"

Icepool felt a swirl of resentment and weird kind of joy when she saw Squirrelflight cheering her name alongside the other cats. Squirrelflight's expression was mores serious and solemn, though. It worried Icepool.

Would their relationship ever heal?

Chapter 11

[image]

((/: A.N: Hey guys! Last chapter was really long, so I hope you enjoyed it! Basically, Icepool is the new mate of Tree, who along with Violetshine is a ThunderClan cat. Icepool is also the mother of future Rootspring and Needleclaw. The picture above is of Rootpaw and Needlepaw together, and the art is not mine, just something I found on the internet. I am really proud of myself that I wrote two chapters in one day which rarely ever happens, and I hope you enjoy this chapter!

Icepool couldn't help the bursts of pride as she watched her kits, Rootpaw and Needlepaw, become apprentices and get new mentors. Tree watched with an amused, almost detached, expression, although Icepool nudged him as if to say, '*this is a big deal*', and he quickly paid more attention. Icepool watched Rootpaw and Needlepaw talk to another apprentice named Bristlepaw, and all three of them went out with their mentors.

"It's a big deal for them to become apprentices," Icepool told Tree meaningfully.

Tree blinked and nodded slightly. "But, if they decide to leave the clan, what good is it?"

Icepool remembered that Tree was still new to clan life, and kept her voice patient. "Being a warrior means they've learned lots of fighting and hunting skills, and that they're loyal to their clan. It's a really big deal."

"Okay," Tree shrugged.

"Icepool," Squirrelflight called from across the camp. "I want to talk

to you."

Icepool spotted a patrol of cats leaving to go hunting and stood up. "I can't. I was going to go hunting with them," Icepool indicated to the cats who were getting ready to leave.

Squirrelflight shook her head. "Hunting can wait. You can go on another patrol."

Icepool felt soothing warmth creep into her as she realized that Squirrelflight genuinely wanted to talk to her. "Okay," Icepaw mewed softly, quiet enough so that only Squirrelflight and a few cats nearby could hear.

Tree waved his tail as a goodbye and Icepool sat down next to Squirrelflight just as Bramblestar strode over. "Is everything alright?" Bramblestar asked.

Yes, mouse-brain, Icepool thought, *now go away*!

"Everything's fine," Squirrelflight assured him.

Not for the first time, Icepool couldn't understand how Squirrelflight thought Bramblestar could ever replace Ashfur. Groaning inwardly, Icepool watched Bramblestar sit down next to Squirrelflight.

Unfortunately, Squirrelflight didn't seem to see any problem with Bramblestar being there. "Icepool, you've seemed a little... distant, in the past few moons. I thought it was because you wanted to be a warrior, but you're not a medicine cat anymore now."

Icepool felt as if her pelt was itching with thousands of ants all made of her frustration. How was she supposed to ever say anything, let alone be comfortable around the fox-heart Squirrelflight called Bramblestar?!

"No, I'm a warrior now," Was all Icepool felt comfortable explaining to Squirrelflight while Bramblestar was around. Oh, why had Bramblestar had to come now of all times?

"Exactly. So what's wrong? You can tell me." Squirrelflight's green

eyes softened.

Inwardly, Icepool completely agreed. She wanted to tell Squirrelflight. But the piece of fox-dung sitting next to her was a completely different story. Icepool felt completely awkward, as if she was trapped in a pelt that was too small, and she needed to run and move around to make it fit. She was uneasy and felt like a stampede of badgers were stamping around her.

"I uh..." Icepool gulped nervously. "Can we talk somewhere more privately?" Icepool blurted.

Squirrelflight blinked in surprise. "Um... sure. Okay."

Squirrelflight stood up to leave, and Bramblestar got up next to her. Thinking fast, Icepool tried to come up with an excuse for Bramblestar to have to leave.

"Icepool!" Needleclaw came hurtling through the camp entrance and skidded to a halt at Icepool's paws. "We went outside and explored clan territory! It was awesome!" She squealed.

Icepool's stiff, nervous emotions completely melted away and she smiled down at her kits as Rootpaw caught up and stood eagerly next to Needlepaw. Distracted, Icepool forgot about Squirrelflight and Bramblestar and talked busily with her kits and Tree. A while later, Icepool finally looked up and realized Squirrelflight had sighed in exasperation before retiring to sitting next to Bramblestar under the highrock and murmuring quietly to him. Icepool felt a flicker of annoyance.

When would Squirrelflight realize Bramblestar could never even begin to replace Ashfur?

Chapter 12

((/: A.N: Hey guys! I really appreciate all of the views and comments on this story, and thank you all so much for sharing your opinions, they mean a lot to me, and encourage me to keep writing. This chapter will be continuing book 1 of the series, 'A Broken Code'. By the way, I know that Tree and Violetshine being in ThunderClan might seem weird to you guys, but this is a fanfiction and I just think that Violetshine and Twigbranch being sisters should stick together. As for Tree being Icepool's mate, I just thought it would be a nice twist and I am so sorry to all of you Violetshine fans out there. Anyway, I hope you all enjoy the story, and I will try to update regularly!

Icepool had reached a decision. As scary as she found it, she needed to tell Squirrelflight what was going on. She really did miss Squirrelflight, and knew that her mother still loved her. Tree had been supportive when she'd explained what she wanted to do, and encouraged her. Still feeling nervous, Icepool padded over to Squirrelflight and sat down next to her.

"Icepool!" Squirrelflight jumped. "Sorry about that. I didn't see you coming."

Icepool smiled slightly. "At least that means I'll be good at stalking prey."

Squirrelflight nodded absent-mindedly. "Was there something you wanted to tell me?"

Here goes nothing. "Squirrelflight, I-"

"Squirrelflight, have you organized the afternoon hunting and border patrols?" Bramblestar asked.

You piece of fox-dung! Icepool cursed silently.

"Yes, I have already told each cat which patrol they're on and when to go," Squirrelflight replied calmly.

Bramblestar nodded his head in approval, turned, and went back into his den.

Go there and stay there! Icepool thought, annoyed at Bramblestar for interrupting her and Squirrelflight twice now.

"Icepool, what did you want to tell me?" Squirrelflight seemed to be paying more attention now.

"Squirrelflight," Icepool began, stampedes of badgers parading around in her stomach. "You asked me why I was being... distant these past few moons."

Squirrelflight nodded, definitely listening now.

"And... I'm going to tell you why," Icepool thought that sounded a lot better in her head than when it was said out loud.

Squirrelflight blinked in slight surprise. "Okay."

Icepool took a deep breath, forced the badgers in her belly to stop, flattened her fur to look calm, and finally, she spoke. "Ever since Ashfur died, I feel like you've just been trying to replace him with Bramblestar. Bramblestar isn't my father, and he's not worth being your mate either!"

Squirrelflight looked stunned. "You're angry because... Ashfur died and you feel like I'm trying to replace him with Bramblestar?"

"And Bramblestar isn't worth being your mate and he's not my father." Icepool finished.

"Bramblestar is my mate and your clan leader, so show some respect!" Squirrelflight looked annoyed.

The moment Icepool heard annoyance in her mew, irritation flared in her too. "Well, since you obviously don't care what I think, don't

even ask next time!"

"I am not replacing Ashfur with Bramblestar!"

"Ashfur was your mate and you got Bramblestar as your new mate after he died. If that isn't replacing then what is?" Icepool growled.

"Icepool, I do miss Ashfur. He was my mate, and I'll never forget that. But without Bramblestar, I would never have had Sparkpelt or Alderheart either, and I didn't say you have to accept Bramblestar as your father!" Squirrelflight argued.

Icepool opened my mouth for a reply when Bristlepaw padded into camp, a drenched Rootpaw leaning on her.

"Rootpaw!" Icepool called out anxiously.

Ignoring Squirrelflight, who was still watching her, Icepool ran over to Rootpaw and gave his ears a worried lick.

"What happened?" Icepool asked.

"Rootpaw wanted to help out and get some herbs for Jayfeather and Alderheart but he slipped and fell in the lake." Bistlepaw explained.

Icepool sniffed Rootpaw and recognized the scent of catmint on him from when she'd trained as a medicine cat. "No wonder he smells like catmint! Where are Alderheart and Jayfeather?"

"They went out to look for tansy and marigold. Jayfeather said his stocks were low," Dovewing replied, looking surprised by the situation.

"I'm f-f-fine," Rootpaw turned to look at Bristlepaw, "B-Bris-stlepaw s-s-s-saved m-me."

"You idiot furball! Why would you go looking for herbs? You're not even a medicine cat!" Icepool couldn't help scolding him as she led him to the medicine den.

"I-I w-w-want t-to h-help." Rootpaw answered feebly.

More like impress Bristlepaw! Icepool thought, annoyed.

"What happened?" Tree asked, entering camp with three mice dangling by their tails from his jaws.

"This idiot furball fell in the lake trying to impress Bristlepaw," Icepool sighed.

Tree blinked at his son anxiously.

"I-I'm f-fine! A-and I wasn't t-trying to i-impress B-Bristlepaw!" Rootpaw protested.

Icepool rolled her eyes but gently nudged Rootpaw into a nest. "Come on, fur-ball."

Icepool licked her kit's ears affectionately while Tree searched for more bedding. "Try to get some sleep. I'll tell Dewnose you're excused from your apprentice duties and training for now. Hopefully, Jayfeather and Alderheart will be back soon to check on you."

Rootpaw looked slightly nervous. "Dewnose will be angry," He murmured, "We were supposed to do battle training practice today."

Icepool took the extra bedding Tree gave her and placed it snuggly over Rootpaw. "Think about that next time before you decide to do something like this again."

Satisfied she had done the best she could for Rootpaw, Icepool retreated from the medicine den and turned to Tree.

"He's fine, the bedding you got will keep him warm." Icepool assured her mate.

Tree sighed in relief then sat down next to Icepool. "Did Needlepaw get into some sort of trouble too?"

Icepool purred slightly. "Thankfully, she didn't, or else I'd be worried sick."

"Did you get to talk to Squirrelflight before all of this happened?"

Tree questioned.

Icepool looked down. In her rush to take care of Rootpaw, she'd completely forgotten about her conversation or rather argument with Squirrelflight.

"Yeah, I talked to her."

"And? How did it go?" Tree prompted gently.

"We got into an argument. I told her everything and she got annoyed and we started fighting. Then Bristlepaw came with Rootpaw and I just sort of got busy and forgot about our argument." I explained.

Tree nodded sympathetically. "Just let things cool off for a bit, then try again. She's your mother, and she loves you."

Icepool sighed and placed her head on her paws. "I know."

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"I don't know!" Icepool snapped. "You were supposed to lead this patrol, not me."

Ivypool sighed in exasperation. "And you're supposed to be on this patrol to, not staring into the distance."

Icepool's pelt prickled with irritation. "I am hunting!"

Ivypool rolled her eyes. "Everyone besides you has caught something."

Icepool scowled, but inwardly, she knew Ivypool was right, and Icepool really wasn't doing well in hunting. Thinking quickly, Icepool managed to find an excuse for herself. "I'm worried about Rootpaw."

Ivypool blinked, slightly sympathy showing in her eyes. "We all know he's your kit, but your clan needs you to hunt too."

Icepool nodded meekly and turned her head away. By the time she

got back to camp, she'd only caught a shrew and a mouse. At least, though, it was something, and no cat could deny that she'd hunted. Carefully avoiding Squirrelflight, Icepool slipped into the medicine den and found Rootpaw chatting happily with Bristlepaw. Knowing her kit was busy, Icepool left the den and looked for Needlepaw or Tree, but Tree was out hunting, and Needlepaw was talking with another apprentice. Sighing, Icepool headed for the camp exit.

"Don't you want some food before you go out?" Dovewing asked.

Icepool shook her head and kept going out of camp. The sun was setting, painting soft, pink slashes of color across a dark orange and yellow sky. Icepool sucked in a deep breath and found her paws moving without her telling them. She felt relaxed, though, as she padded to some unknown place. Soon, she recognized the path from her time as a medicine cat.

I'm going to the moonpool.

But soon, as Icepool slipped her paws into the marks of the stone made by cats many moons ago she smelled another scent nearby.

ShadowClan, Icepool realized. Suddenly, she felt very small and alone, as if she was an apprentice again. Icepool picked up her pace and blinked in surprise when she found the moonpool was empty. She breathed in, but scented no cats. Only...

Icepool's ears twitched. The sound of pawsteps approaching drove her to leap behind a bush, and she watched as Jayfeather and Alderheart entered, the half moon in the sky illuminating the place. Icepool's pelt rippled self-consciously as she realized she was in a sacred place only for medicine cats, and that it was the half-moon meeting. The other medicine cats arrived soon, and Icepool felt her muscles tense more and more as she watched and listened to the medicine cats exchanging greetings and talking idly about herbs, and which ones they were getting low on. Puddleshine and his apprentice, Shadowpaw, arrived last. Shadowpaw seemed a bit nervous, and old enough to be a warrior, although Icepool did know that medicine cat apprentices trained longer; it had been one of the reasons she hadn't wanted to be a medicine cat. It hadn't been that bad, but Icepool felt as if her true place was as a warrior. It was just

who she was meant to be.

"...started." Jayfeather finished.

All of the medicine cats crouched down and lapped up a few drops of the water. Icepool watched as every cat aside from Mothwing seemed to get ready to be accepted into StarClan

As soon as they're asleep, Icepool reasoned, *I'll leave so they can't tell I was here.*

Suddenly, all of the cats lunged upwards, shocked. Shadowpaw's gaze began to rake the moonpool, and Icepool felt panic slash furiously like a fox's claws at her. *StarClan must have told them I'm here*!

Icepool leaped from her spot and darted out of the moonpool, running fast enough so that she only looked like a quick blur. Her heart was pounding, her blood roaring in her ears, and her fur blown backwards because of how fast she'd ran. When she was sure she was out of sight, Icepool finally slowed down, panting for breath and alert for any signs of a cat chasing her. Icepool sat on the soft earth for a few long moments, sucking in greedy gulps of air and waiting for her flanks to stop heaving. Afterwards, she finally got to her paws and padded back to camp. The cool night air felt refreshing after her long run, and the ground and leaf litter was soft beneath her paws. Careful not to be noticed, Icepool slipped back into camp through the dirtplace tunnel, her pelt catching a few leaves and thorns as she shoved herself through the small hole. The hole had been there for as a long as she could remember, a gap in the wall of the dirtplace that was just large enough for her to creep through.

"Oh!" Icepool said when she landed, tripping over her tail, through the hole.

Thankfully, no cat seemed to have heard her, and after grooming her pelt clean of any scents that might reveal her, Icepool strode out of the tunnel with her tail high and expression as if nothing out of the ordinary was going on.

"Icepool?" Squirrelflight looked confused from where she sat, a little way from Icepool. "I didn't see you come back into camp, just out."

Icepool felt nervous butterflies flap around wildly in her stomach.

"Well...I uh..."

"I wanted to talk to you," Squirrelflight continued.

Icepool felt as if the ground had tipped over to one side beneath her paws. Squirrelflight hadn't really wanted to know how she got into camp!

Squirrelflight paused. "Icepool, I noticed you have WindClan scent on you."

Icepool's nerves bounced into action, bouncing back and forth. She'd walked nearby the WindClan border in order to get the moonpool, and somehow Squirrelflight seemed to have smelled the scent despite Icepool having washed her coat.

"Is there a reason why?"

Icepool gulped. She had to get Squirrelflight to go away and stop talking to her before she was found out! "Looks like you finally actually noticed something about me. What a surprise!" Icepool mewed harshly.

Squirrelflight looked stunned. "I didn't mean-"

Icepool whirled around and entered the warrior's den, ignoring Squirrelflight. Guilt was flapping frantically inside her, and Icepool wanted to lie in her nest and sleep for a moon. Amber eyes flashed in the darkness and Icepool realized with staggering mortification that Tree had witnessed the entire scene between her and Squirrelflight. Icepool wanted to yowl out an apology right there and then, and yet there were more than two dozen warriors sleeping around her, and she didn't want any cat to know about this- any of it. Still horrified, Icepool lay down and closed her eyes in her warm moss nest. She'd lined it with soft grey feathers to remind her of Ashfur a few days earlier, but now, they brought her no comfort whatsoever.

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Chapter 13

((/: A.N: Hey guys! I will be trying to make the chapters longer like last chapter, as I think that was my longest ever chapter yet! As always, I hope you guys are well and you enjoy my story!

Icepool sat int he corner of the ThunderClan camp, watching Tree as he chatted contentedly with Needlepaw. Bristlepaw was halfheartedly listening to Rootpaw while gazing at Stemleaf, and Squirrelflight was organizing the afternoon patrols for the day.

"Icepool! You can go on the border patrol." Squirrelflight commanded.

"I've just come back from my own hunting patrol," Icepool pointed out.

"Then you can do something instead of sitting around and doing nothing!" Squirrelflight retorted, clearly annoyed.

Icepool glared at Squirrelflight, but felt powerless against her; Squirrelflight was a senior warrior, and the Clan deputy. And Icepool knew that Squirrelflight was upset with her; every cat in the whole of ThunderClan knew! News spread like a wildfire here.

"What do you suggest?"

Squirrelflight paused thoughtfully, clearly thoughtful and oblivious to the anger in Icepool's tone.

"You can go on the afternoon hunting patrol," She finally mewed. "I'm leading it myself."

Oh great, Icepool grumbled inwardly as she stood up to leave. Squirrelflight nodded at the rest of the patrol and plunged into the forest, Icepool and the others following her. After a few seconds of thinking, Icepool agreed to try and impress Squirrelflight despite the cold leafbare driving away most of the prey in the forest. The rustle of a bush nearby made Icepool freeze in her tracks, and she slid into the hunters crouch. She emerged a few moments later with a squirrel hanging from her jaws. Glancing around, Icepool realized that the hunting patrol had gone on without her and hadn't realized she'd paused to catch something.

"Oh, wonderful. Now I have to trace their scent in this cold weather," Icepool groaned and wandered along the vague scent trail. Thankfully, they hadn't gone too far, and Icepool managed to catch up with them.

"Oh, there you are. Are you a kit or a warrior? We all hunt together in a hunting patrol." Squirrelflight snapped.

The other cats looked amused, and Icepool felt annoyance zap in her. Sparkpelt blinked.

"Perhaps Icepool just wanted to hunt alone," Sparkpelt shrugged, "At least she caught something." Sparkpelt pointed at the squirrel lying at Icepool's paws with her tail.

Squirrelflight glanced dismissively at the squirrel. "ThunderClan is hungry, and a scrawny squirrel will hardly feed one cat."

Icepool gaped at Squirrelflight, not bothering to hide her shock that Squirrelflight was insulting prey just because she was angry. Sparkpelt looked apologetically at Icepool as she padded by their mother's side, but Icepool hardly noticed. It wasn't fair that Sparkpelt didn't have any problems with Squirrelflight! Icepool figured that Squirrelflight must love Sparkpelt more, and stomped angrily onwards, her gaze fixed on the cold forest floor so that no cat would see the scowl fixed on her face. Icepool managed to pause and catch a mouse before they went back to camp, so that Squirrelflight couldn't blame her for not catching anything before sitting down next to Rootpaw.

"How is your training going?" Icepool tried to pretend she was interested in the answer when she was really trying to get Tree's attention; he hadn't spoken to her since he saw her intentionally fight with Squirrelflight.

"Oh, not very well. Dewspring says I need to focus on my training more and that I'm too distracted. I can't seem to get anything right!" Rootpaw sighed.

Icepool brushed her tail comfortingly down Rootpaw's spine. "Do you think there's a reason why you're distracted?"

Rootpaw's gaze drifted to Bristlepaw. "Uh...not really."

Icepool could tell he was lying, but decided not to press him for answers anyway.

"And how's Needlepaw doing?"

"She's doing great!" Rootpaw mewed in an almost bitter tone.

Icepool nudged Rootpaw gently. "I'm sure you're both doing great," She assured him.

Rootpaw sighed and looked away. Understanding that the conversation was over, Icepool stood up and padded over to Tree, sitting awkwardly beside him.

"Tree," She began.

Tree turned to look at her and she could sense that he had a whirlpool of emotions inside him.

"Look, I'm really sorry about what you saw last night," Icepool tried desperately, "I just..." Icepool struggled for an answer, "I just was uh really tired and I wanted to stop talking and go to sleep."

Icepool instantly knew Tree didn't believe her, and she herself wouldn't have believed such an obvious lie if Tree had tried to tell her it. "Tree, please you have to believe me."

Tree sighed and stood up. "Just... just not right now, Icepool. I

think..." Tree turned his solemn gaze to her. "I've been thinking... about joining SkyClan."

Icepool shrank backwards in horror. "SkyClan? But why?"

Tree shrugged, "It just feels right to me."

"But... but you can't love a cat from another clan," Icepool tried desperately, her voice now no louder than a weak whisper.

Tree looked away, and Icepool felt her heart shattering and being torn apart by a badger's claws.

"What about Rootpaw and Needlepaw?" Icepool hunched low over the ground, trembling.

"I won't be a warrior, and I'll never have to fight against them. I'm a mediator; I'll be able to keep the peace between SkyClan and ThunderClan." Tree looked apologetic and even slightly regretful. "I'm sorry, Icepool. I really am."

But the apologies didn't mean anything to Icepool's ripped heart. She saw Squirrelflight frowning at her from across the clearing, confused, but didn't bother to explain. Instead, she tore across the camp, into the forest, and safely hid herself deep in the undergrowth. Her chest hurt from the pain, and her breathing came our ragged and shaky. Even when she heard paw steps approaching, her whole body hurt too much to move.

"Icepool?" The familiar voice asked.

"G-go away!"

"Icepool, what's wrong?"

Icepool looked up and gazed up at Squirrelflight's sharp, forest green eyes with her own ice blue ones before leaning against Squirrelflight, trembling and still feeling as if her whole world was shattering.

"T-Tree is leaving ThunderClan t-to go to SkyClan and he d-doesn't want to be with me a-anymore." Icepool couldn't even bother

wincing from how much she stuttered when she spoke.

Squirrelflight gave her a comforting lick. "Don't worry. Everything's going to be alright."

Deep inside the scattered remains of her heart, Icepool felt a small seed grow.

Maybe my relationship with Squirrelflight will heal.

((/: Hello! So, I know a lot of you won't think that Tree would leave his kits behind in another Clan, or leave his mate because he saw her fight, and that he wouldn't do all this and leave his clan, but Tree is a loner, and he and Icepool had been fighting a bit, although I hadn't wanted to include that. In addition, he thought he could keep the peace between ThunderClan and SkyClan which would actually keep his kits safe.

Chapter 14

((/: A.N: Hey guys! Thank you all for 300 total views! I never thought this story would get so far and I'm really happy that you guys all enjoyed it so much.

Icepool watched Tree's leaving with hollow eyes. Rootpaw and Needlepaw were saying goodbye, while Bramblestar stood on top of the Highrock, watching.

"I'll see you both at the next gathering," Tree promised his kits.

The rest of the clan watched tensely, waiting for Tree to leave, although a few cats looked angry, as if they thought of Tree as a traitor. Tree glanced for a half-moment at Icepool as he left, but turned around and padded to the exit.

"Do you want an escort to SkyClan territory?" Squirrelflight suggested.

Tree shook his head, "I'll be fine."

With a final goodbye to his kits, Tree padded out of the camp, Icepool staring at the empty space he'd been in. After a long few minutes of convincing herself, Icepool stood up to take a walk and clear her head, but froze outside the medicine den when she heard conversation. Trying to look like she was nonchalantly sitting there and grooming herself, Icepool swerved her ears in the direction of the cats talking in the medicine den.

"Why do you think StarClan has stopped talking to us?"

Icepool heard Alderheart mew, and felt her heart go cold, as if she'd suddenly realized she was unprotected.

"Do you think it's because of the ice on the moonpool?" Alderheart

asked from inside the medicine den.

Icepool heard Jayfeather snort.

"That nonsense of StarClan not talking to us because of the moonpool freezing over? Of course not! Don't tell me it's gotten to your head?"

"But then what happened at the moonpool?" Icepool could hear genuine curiousity in Alderheart's voice, as if he really wanted to hear Jayfeather's opinion.

I'm a mouse brain, Icepool thought, *of course he wants to hear Jayfeather's opinion*! *Jayfeather was his mentor*.

"Either StarClan didn't have anything to tell us," Jayfeather replied, "Or they're testing us. Now, we're getting dangerously low on catmint. I want to check if there's anymore before the frost destroys all of it. You sort through the dock leaves and get rid of the ones that can't be used anymore."

Icepool heard Jayfeather's pawsteps coming towards the medicine den's exit but was too slow to leave before he came. Her body had been to relaxed with sitting and didn't respond quick enough when she urged it to jump away before Jayfeather caught her eavesdropping. So instead, Icepool dropped into a crouch with her eyes half closed as if she had been sunbathing the entire time. Jayfeather scowled when he nearly fell on her while trying to pad out of the medicine den.

For a moment, Jayfeather seemed surprised and annoyed, but mostly suspicious Icepool had been listening to his conversation with Alderheart. Icepool blinked up at him, trying to appear as innocent as possible.

Eventually, Jayfeather flattened his ears and snarled. "I nearly tripped on you! If you were an apprentice, and I was your mentor again, I'd have you clean the ticks off the elders for the rest of the afternoon!" Her former mentor hissed.

Icepool ducked her head, pretending to be embarrassed. "Sorry,

Jayfeather."

Icepool watched him pad away warily, worried. Although she wasn't as anxious about Jayfeather's warning as she was about what he and Alderheart had been talking about.

Why had StarClan stopped talking to the Clans?

Chapter 15

((/: A.N: Hey guys! I did get a comment wanting Icepool and Squirrelflight's relationship to heal, so this is the chapter for you all! Also, I feel like the drama with them fighting has kind of been going on for too long, and I also want Icepool to have someone- oops, some cat, sorry, it's habbit- to connect with. Albeit I am not that great with really mushy stuff so please don't expect something awesome and completely healing, both because relationships don't just heal like magic, and because I need to include some important plot points in this chapter. Hope you all enjoy! <3

Icepool padded idly through ThunderClan territory, a vole and a squirrel hanging from her jaws. Prey was scarce with such a cold winter, and Icepool hadn't wanted to be useless, so she'd gone out to hunt. Thankfully, she'd actually caught something this time. She slid back into camp, dropped her prey on the fresh-kill pile, and sat down to talk with a cat she'd started to talk to more often; Bristlepaw.

Bristlepaw was the daughter of Ivypool, and Bristlepaw was the cat Icepool's son Rootspring was fawning over. Icepool spotted her son staring at Birstlepaw from across the clearing of the camp, while his sister, Needlepaw, chatted to him.

"Icepool, why do you think Tree left ThunderClan?" Bristlepaw asked suddenly, the question catching Icepool off guard.

"Um...I..."

Icepool had been having a lot of difficult feelings. Some of them had even been to difficult to handle. So, In a last resort, Icepool had decided to completely lock her feelings away. She squished them down until she couldn't feel them anymore, although any mention of tender subjects brought them rising up to the surface, strong and hard and too unbearable for Icepool to keep.

"I..." Icepool felt the emotions she'd been trying to avoid frothing inside her and stood up shakily, wobbly on her paws. "I um... I uh... I have to go." Icepool blurted, then whirled around and rushed out of camp. Her paws led her to the place she expected least, and Icepool found herself in front of the round, icy surface of the moonpool.

"What am I doing?" Icepool flinched at the hoarse, whisper of her voice.

As if in a trance, Icepool leaned down and touched her muzzle to the moonpool, aware and unaware of her actions at the same time. Suddenly, everything turned into darkness.

Icepool, a voice almost as dark and rich as the shadows around her echoed strangely in her head. It sounded...familiar.

Icepool turned her head from side to side but couldn't manage to make out anything. ***Where am I? Who's there?***

Icepool had meant to speak aloud, but she only heard the words in her head, although the other cat still seemed to hear her.

Don't be afraid. I'm coming. The voice replied, sounding wrong as if it wasn't supposed to be there and comforting at the same time.

WHO?! Icepool demanded, just as colors swirled back into her vision, and Icepool found herself gasping and stumbling away from the moonpool. She felt as if she'd been underwater and holding her breath, and to her horror, when she looked down, her fur was drenched. The ice was shattered and crunched just in front of where she'd been laying, although Icepool could have sworn she didn't remember doing any of this.

Suddenly afraid and with her heart roaring in her ears, Icepool turned around and ran back to ThunderClan territory, back into the forest, back into her home. The world and sights blurred by her, as the coldness from the freezing water finally sank into her. Breathing heavily, Icepool stumbled to a stop and blinked exhaustedly at the ginger figure in front of her.

"Icepool?"

Icepool's head swam, everything disoriented and swirling in front of her.

"Who...who is it?" Icepool managed to ask, her voice dry and brittle.

"It's me, Squirrelflight! You've been gone for hours!" Squirrelflight exclaimed anxiously. "And your fur is soaked! What happened?"

Icepool didn't feel like explaining. But she didn't want to lie. And yet the truth was too absurd to believe. So instead of saying anything, Icepool sank to her paws and mumbled out inaudible words that were slurred with fear and sadness.

Somehow, Squirrelflight seemed to understand. Not the words Icepool was meowing to her, but Icepool's emotions. Squirrelflight gently helped Icepool up and back to camp, although Icepool was still dizzy and her mind was buzzing.

Wait.

Icepool shuddered suddenly in horror.

Squirrelflight said I was gone for hours. But I only ever remember being gone for one hour.

Terrified, Icepool glanced nervously up at the sky and saw the midnight sky. Horrified she'd been gone so long with no memory but talking to a strange cat for a few seconds, Icepool leaned on Squirrelflight's warm, soft fur and tried to make sense of everything.

What's happening?!

Chapter 16

[image]

((/: A.N : Hey guys! I found the picture above on the internet and just made a few small edits. Basically that's Bramblestar and Squirrelflight. Also, I just wanted to say thank you all so much for 360 views! You amazing readers are what encourage me to keep writing. Hope you enjoy! :D

Icepool paced in the warrior's den. She couldn't stop thinking. The gears in her brain were twisting and turning over and over again, unable to turn themselves off. Icepool knew a lot of cats would simply brush what had happened to her off, but she couldn't. She just couldn't.

A familiar, strange voice.

Darkness.

Waking up and finding...

Wet fur.

Broken ice.

Freezing.

All the evidence pointed to the idea that Icepool had unconsciously leapt into the moonpool. But why?

"I don't understand any of this," Icepool murmured to herself.

"Icepool! Do you want to go hunting?" Squirrelflight poked her head

into the warrior's den with a friendly ghost of a smile on her face.

So far, Icepool thought her relationship with Squirrelflight had improved dramatically; but she still didn't approve of Squirrelflight's pile of fox dung for a mate.

"Sure," Icepool shrugged.

"Is something wrong? You've been a bit... absent-minded since you came back that night when I found you in the forest, soaked."

Icepool leaped nimbly over a fallen log. *She knows something's up*, Icepool thought, *no wonder kits say mothers have eyes in the back of their heads*.

"No, nothing's wrong," But Icepool knew the moment Squirrelflight narrowed her eyes at her that her lie was obvious. "I smell mouse," Icepool tried to change the subject, "Do you want to check over there?" Icepool pointed her tail in the direction she was talking about.

"Okay," Squirrelflight replied slowly, "I'll see you back here in a while and we can see what the other cat caught."

Icepool hurried in the other direction, glad to be away from the questioning and guilty of her lie all the same. Thankfully, she managed to catch a mouse near the ShadowClan border despite her whirling thoughts so that she wouldn't have to meet Squirrelflight empty-pawed.

Crack.

Icepool heard a branch snap from across the ShadowClan border and whirled around, squinting into the darkness.

"Who's there?"

There was a bit of shuffling between the pine trees, then a scrawny male cat stood in her view. Icepool recognized him as Shadowpaw, the medicine cat of ShadowClan and the son of Tigerstar the second and Dovewing.

"Oh," Icepool couldn't help feeling a bit embarrassed she'd overreacted when Shadowpaw wasn't even outside of ShadowClan territory. "Hi Shadowpaw."

"Hi," Shadowpaw shifted on his paws and glanced around. "Are you alone?"

Icepool nodded her head. "Yeah, I'm not on a patrol, don't worry. What are you doing? Why don't you want any cat to see you?" Icepool didn't like being nosy, but her curiosity was burning and refused to be stamped down.

Shadowpaw didn't seem to mind her question much, though. "I'm going to the moonpool."

"Oh, right. But it isn't the half-moon meeting yet." Icepool pointed out.

"Well...I'm not supposed to be going now. I mean, I am, but not really, but..." Shadowpaw looked like he was struggling to explain. "My mentor, Puddleshine, thinks I'm collecting herbs right now. I'm not supposed to be going to the moonpool now."

Icepool blinked at him, confused, but didn't want to annoy him with questions.

"Please don't tell anyone I'm going to the moonpool," Shadowpaw added.

Should I tell him about what happened to me at the moonpool? Icepool pondered the question for a bit, but decided that if she didn't feel comfortable telling Squirrelflight, then telling a cat from another clan was definitely not the right decision. Although Icepool knew she would feel bad if something bad happened to Shadowpaw. He seemed like a nice, anxious cat, about her age.

"I won't," Icepool promised, then decided to discreetly try to send a warning to Shadowpaw. "Just be careful at the moonpool, alright?"

Shadowpaw blinked curiously at her, obviously mystified, but seemed to realize she wasn't going to be able to answer any questions for him.

"I will, I promise. The moonpool is safe though, isn't it?" Shadowpaw studied her, his eyes narrowed slightly.

Icepool leaned back, realizing what he meant. "Of course! I mean, it's not like ThunderClan is going to attack, I promise you that." *Oh fox dung that really sounds like ThunderClan's going to attack*! "Oh mouse-dung I mean, ThunderClan really isn't going to attack! I should shut my mouth now, shouldn't I?"

Shadowpaw's whiskers twitched, and Icepool felt her own whiskers twitch too with amusement.

"I really am trying to be sincere," Icepool couldn't stop smiling now, "I just have a mouse-brained way of showing it."

"It's alright. I believe you," Icepool felt a warm sensation spread through her as she realized Shadowpaw was being sincere.

"Well, good luck at the moonpool! Maybe StarClan will finally have something to say and finally start talking to us aga-" Icepool froze guiltily, her mouth still hanging open.

I wasn't supposed to know that! Now Shadowpaw will know I was eavesdropping on Jayfeather! Even worse, Jayfeather's going to claw my ears off and line his nest with my fur!

"I'm really, really sorry! I know I wasn't supposed to know all that about StarClan, but I just overheard Jayfeather talking about it with Alderheart and please don't tell Jayfeather or else he will line his nest with my fur!" Icepool blurted out.

To Icepool's relief, Shadowpaw's whiskers twitched again, the ghost of a smile flickering across his initially nervous expression. "I won't tell Jayfeather, don't worry."

Icepool grinned. "I won't tell anyone about you going to the moonpool as long as you keep my little secret."

"Deal."

Icepool watched Shadowpaw leave with her tail high.

It's funny. I haven't felt that happy since I last talked to Tree.

Chapter 17

((/: A.N: Hey guys! A big thank you to user @pussk1n for pointing out a small mistake. Yes, I have previously said that Icepool is the same age as Dovewing, and in the last chapter stated that she is the same age as Shadowpaw. As medicine cat training takes longer, Shadowpaw is about the age of a warrior, and Icepool is about his age as she is a new warrior as well, and I apologize for my mistake as Icepool is not the age of Dovewing. Sorry for the inconvenience and once again thank you to @pussk1n for pointing out the mistake and for commenting! Comments are worth gold to me, as they show me what you all really think of my story. Hope you enjoy the chapter!

Icepool bit half-heartedly into her mouse. Thoughts of what had happened to her at the moonpool just a few nights ago had been swept away by new thoughts of-

"Icepool! If you're quite done staring into the distance, the afternoon hunting patrol could use another cat," Squirrelflight snapped from where she was organizing the patrols, clearly annoyed.

Icepool knew Squirrelflight wasn't angry about their relationship; infact, their mother-daughter relationship had been perhaps greater than ever. Icepool knew the real reason Squirrelflight was so annoyed. Icepool had been slacking off from her warrior duties a bit, thinking more and getting her head lost in the clouds rather than down below where every cat needed it to be-

"Icepool!" Squirrelflight called again, and Icepool realized with a quick wash of embarrassment that her mother had already called her names several times.

"Huh? What about the hunting patrols?"

"I *said* that you should go on the afternoon hunting patrol!" Squirrelflight's fur twitched, her voice full of irritation.

"Oh. Right. Sorry." Icepool licked her chest fur, once again embarrassed for what seemed like the third time that day.

And what was even worse was that her clanmates had started to notice it too.

"She's got that look in her eyes," Icepool had heard Brightheart murmur to Cloudtail the other day.

Icepool scrambled to catch up with the patrol who'd already been about to leave, and found Squirrelflight at the head of the patrol.

"Sparkpelt, Cherryfall, you go that way, Stemleaf and Bristlefrost search that way," Squirrelflight commanded, and I found myself alone with her.

"Icepool," Squirrelflight began.

Oh no. Here it comes.

"I'm very glad you're getting over Tree, but that doesn't mean you

can stop focusing on your warrior duties. Your clan needs you, especially in such a hard leaf bare like this."

"I'm not- what- Tree- not-" Icepool had no idea how to explain herself. "I'm not getting another mate!"

Squirrelflight gave Icepool a half amused- half annoyed expression. "Come on, Icepool. Every cat in the clan can tell. I heard Stemleaf saying he couldn't decide if he liked you more or Spotfur."

Icepool felt her fur fluff out. "He said what?!"

"Is Stemleaf the cat?"

"No! There is no cat!" Icepool insisted.

Squirrelflight shrugged. "The point is, Icepool, you need to keep focusing on your warrior duties and not get distracted."

Icepool studied the snow-covered forest floor. "I know."

"Good. I'll go find the rest of the patrol."

Icepool watched Squirrelflight leave and shook out her fur.

Shadowpaw's just a nice cat. That's all. I'm not mouse-brained enough to look at the ShadowClan leader's medicine cat son, for StarClan's sake!

But Icepool still couldn't shake Shadowpaw's gleaming amber eyes out of her head as she padded back to meet the patrol.

Chapter 18

((/: A.N: Hey guys! So, yes, Icepool and Shadowpaw might turn out to be a thing! Keep reading to find out :D

Icepool was still struggling to focus on her warrior duties, despite her promise to Squirrelflight. Which was why she found herself near the ShadowClan border, 'hunting'. She was careful not to cross the clan border so as not to start a war between ShadowClan and ThunderClan, but the cold was nibbling at her fur as she stamped and paced to try and keep herself warm.

"Curse this fox-dung winter!" Icepool snapped.

"The cold and snow have been killing off many of mine and Littlecloud's herbs."

Icepool nearly leapt out of her fur and whirled around, and found Shadowpaw sitting across the border, a few stalks of dock leaves in his jaws.

"Oh! Uh... Hi! Shadowpaw! I mean, um, hi Shadowpaw!"

"H-hello. Littlecloud sent me to fetch a few dock leaves, which is why I'm h-here."

Icepool felt a slight quiver of amusement at the fact that Shadowpaw was always so anxious. "But isn't it better to collect dock leaves on the other side of clan territory, where there's more shade from the leaves of the trees to stop the snow from freezing the herbs?"

Icepool saw Shadowpaw stop and fish for an answer and felt her heart give a small jump.

He was looking for me!

Icepool squashed down the hope immediately. There was no way Shadowpaw had gone to the ThunderClan border on purpose just to see her. He'd have no idea if she would be here or not.

And neither did I.

"So what are you doing here?"

Now it was Icepool's turn to grope wildly for a believable answer.

"I was uh... hunting! Yes, I was hunting."

That sounds like I'm trying to convince myself.

"But isn't it better to hunt more quietly rather than stamping around and cursing the snow and the coldness?" Shadowpaw looked faintly amused.

"Oh mouse-dung. I mean, I was hunting. But then I got distracted. By the uh cold, yes, the cold."

"Okay. I asked Littlecloud earlier about this but... he was just trying to reassure me. I want you to tell me the truth." Shadowpaw mewed after a moment.

"The truth about what?"

"Why do you think StarClan has stopped talking to us? Littlecloud said it was just because the moonpool had frozen over," Icepool shivered as he said the word moonpool, "But I think he just didn't want me to be worrried."

Icepool paused to think about her response. "Well, I overheard Jayfeather saying he didn't think it was because of the moonpool freezing over either. Hey," Icepool turned to Shadowpaw, her gaze sharp, "When you went to the moonpool, did anything happen?"

Icepool watched Shadowpaw shift on his paws and felt her curiosity become perked.

"N-no, nothing happened to me at the moonpool."

He's lying.

Icepool could tell from the moment she saw it in his amber eyes.

"Are you sure?" Icepool asked softly. "You can trust me."

Branches cracked behind her, and Icepool whirled around, her ears alert and her fur prickled. She caught the sent of ThunderClan and spotted Bristlefrost's grey pelt speeding away just in time.

"Oh no!"

Shadowpaw was standing up, his eyes wide. "It's not like we were breaking the code," Shadowpaw glanced away, "Not really anyway."

"The last thing Bristlefrost will have heard me say is for you to trust me! Of course she'll think we're breaking the code!" Icepool couldn't hold her thundering heart still.

What if I get exiled from ThunderClan?

"I have to go stop her." Icepool told Shadowpaw.

"Okay."

Icepool blinked excitedly at Shadowpaw.

Was that disappointment I'm leaving?

Icepool growled at herself mentally.

Icepool, stop being a half-dazed mouse-brain and go catch up to Bristlefrost!

Without another word, Icepool raced away through the frozen forest and caught Bristlefrost's scent veering away from camp.

She's with another cat, Icepool paused to sniff their scent, *it's Rootspring*.

Icepool pounded through the woods and skidded to a stop in front of Rootspring and Bristlefrost, sending droplets of snow flying.

"Wait! I wasn't breaking the code!"

Bristlefrost narrowed her eyes. "Then what were you doing?"

"I was just talking to Shadowpaw. That's it. Nothing else."

Rootspring's whiskers twitched. "Are you sure?"

"You would break the code if Rootspring was in another clan, or if he'd left for SkyClan with... with Tree." Icepool retorted to Bristlefrost.

Bristlefrost exchanged glances with an embarrassed looking Rootspring.

"Come on, Bristlefrost. We're friends." Icepool begged.

"Okay." Bristlefrost sighed finally.

"Thank you." Icepool blinked at them.

She just hoped she could keep the secret too.

***

Icepool woke up a few days later with her limbs feeling stiff and her fur cold. She knew her already fluffy pelt was thickening due to the cold, but nothing seemed to be able to warm her up.

Outside, Squirrelflight was organizing the patrols with Bramblestar watching, when he suddenly snapped something at her that shocked everyone. Icepool padded over wearily, but also furious Bramblestar had insulted Squirrelflight. Icepool heard him apologize, though, so

decided to forgive the piece of fox dung (temporarily) and watched him prepare to leave with the morning patrol. Something about him seemed...wrong. Icepool paused, then thought of the recent gathering, where Shadowpaw had admitted to being hit by lightening while at the moonpool.

Icepool had known instantly that was what he'd been hesitant to tell her, and felt slightly hurt that he hadn't trusted her enough to tell her. He also said he'd had a vision of fire coming from the heart of the clans and devouring it. Icepool had no idea what either vision meant.

"Can I come on the hunting patrol too?" Icepool asked, and felt relieved when she'd been allowed to come.

Now I can keep an eye on fox dun- I mean. Bramblestar.

Icepool frowned at him as they padded through the forest. Bramblestar was walking much too loudly to be hunting, and beside her, Bristlefrost seemed to have noticed it as well.

"Do you think-" Bristlefrost started, but stopped in horror.

At the head of the patrol, Bramblestar had collapsed.

Chapter 19

Icepool's heart was thundering in her chest, and her nerves were doing weird little jingles. Memories of just a couple of hours ago flashed in her head.

Icepool was still shocked by Bramblestar's sudden collapse, but figured he'd wake up soon; both Alderheart and Jayfeather were taking care of him. Mostly, she only wanted him to wake up so Squirrelflight wouldn't be so worried; Icepool herself was pretty happy to have a few hours or even days of peace from Bramblestar's endless annoyance. It really did know no limits.

However, Icepool knew she was loyal to her clan, so she supposed she did want Bramblestar to wake up. More so because Squirrelflight wouldn't stop looking so anxious.

"Icepool, would you mind going on this patrol for me? I'm going to go check on Bramblestar," Squirrelflight mewed quickly before ducking into the medicine den.

"Of course you're going to go check on him," Icepool rolled her eyes and muttered, although she really didn't mind going on a patrol and she was more annoyed that Squirrelflight kept running into the medicine den.

"Are you ready to go?" Cherryfall, Sparkpelt, Bristlepaw, Twigbranch, Violetshine, and Rootpaw were waiting to leave for the patrol.

Icepool nodded quickly, and Cherryfall took the lead with Sparkpelt

close behind her and Bristlepaw and Rootpaw a little ahead of me. Violetshine and Twigbranch were between Rootpaw and Brsistlepaw (to Rootpaw's dismay)and I took the rear of the patrol.

"Violetshine, Sparkpelt, and Bristlepaw, you try hunting closer to the lake, and Twibranch, Rootpaw, and I will go near the old oak tree. Icepool, you can hunt alone a bit in that direction," Cherryfall nodded, "And we'll all meet back here in a while with our prey."

"StarClan hope we find any in this cold weather," Twigbranch huffed, stamping her paws to try to shake the cold away.

Icepool found her paws leading her closer to the ShadowClan border than she'd intentioned, and she stopped in surprise when she found herself close to the border.

"Icepool!" Shadowpaw jumped in surprise, and Icepool felt a spark of happiness in her.

"I'm sorry I didn't tell you about my visions, but I didn't think you would have believed me, especially if I said I'd been hit by lightening," Shadowpaw explained.

"I would have, and I still do. I... I had something similar happen to me at the moonpool. That's why I told you to be... to be careful." Icepool found herself saying.

Shadowpaw looked surprised, and he widened his eyes. "You did? You were hit by lightening too? What happened?"

Icepool shook her head. "No, I just went to the moonpool and I fell asleep and some cat started talking to me in my head. A tom, I think. Then when I woke up I was drenched and the ice in the moonpool was shattered as if... as if I'd leapt in there and swam in the moonpool."

Shadowpaw blinked in shock and glanced around him. "I'm not supposed to tell you this, but..."

"Shadowpaw!" The yowl tore out across the ShadowClan side of the forest, and Icepool stiffened in alarm.

"That's Littlecloud. He must be calling me. I... meet me tonight, at moon

high, at the same place, alright?" Shadowpaw whispered hurriedly.

"O-okay," Icepool breathed, backing away. "I'll see you then."

Icepool had turned and ran back to the rest of the patrol, although she groomed herself thoroughly to wipe the scent of ShadowClan away first, and managed to catch a mouse, although it was skinny. Thankfully, the patrol didn't seem suspicious as none of the others seemed to have any better luck.

Cherryfall sighed, although Icepool admired how Bristlepaw had managed to catch a rather plump vole in weather like this.

"Wow, Bristlefrost! That's a huge vole!" Rootpaw fawned.

Icepool chuckled inwardly as the patrol took their prey back and managed to fill it about halfway, at the very least. Icepool's thoughts though, had been focused on one thing.

She was meeting Shadowpaw.

Chapter 20

[image]

((/: A.N: Hey guys! Thank you all so, so, so, so much for 400 views! I never thought my fanfcition could get this far and thank you all for making this happen!

Icepool skirted through ThunderClan territory, her paws, heart, and mind racing. Her eyes scoured the forest around her, and she reminded herself of her excuse if any cat aside from Shadowpaw saw her.

"I was just out here hunting because I couldn't sleep," Icepool whispered to herself. "That's all there is to it."

Icepool leapt over a fallen log, then stopped at the spot she was supposed to meet Shadow paw at. She shook soft snow out of her fur, and opened her mouth to taste the air.

"Shadowpaw?"

"I'm here," Shadowpaw's mew snapped Icepool to attention, and she turned to see him across the border, just a few tail lengths away and sitting underneath a pine tree.

"I need to tell you something," Shadowpaw added.

"It's nice to see you too," Icepool rolled her eyes and smirked slightly.

Shadowpaw looked embarrassed, so Icepool shook her head.

"It's okay, just tell me."

"I had a vision," Shadowpaw started.

Icepool widened her eyes in excitement. "You communicated with StarClan? Did they tell you why they've been giving us the silent treatment?"

"I had two visions, but I've only told Tigerstar them." Shadowpaw explained.

"But we've all been trying to get in contact with StarClan! If you're the one who can finally talk to them, you should share that, not hide it." Icepool frowned, although she felt bad from her sharp tone of voice, and felt even worse when Shadowpaw flinched.

"I'm sorry, I'm just confused," Icepool apologized.

"It's fine," Shadowpaw shook his head and stared down at his paws.

"Do you want to tell me what your visions were about?" Icepool tried to ask gently.

"One of them was... it was about codebreakers."

Icepool frowned and felt Shadowpaw's anxiety about the vision, so she tried to seem as open as possible, sitting down and blinking with round, curious eyes and her fur even fluffier than usual.

"It was showing the cats who were codebreakers. Jayfeather, Lionblaze, Twigbranch, Crowfeather, Mothwing, and... Dovewing." Shadowpaw finished and sighed.

"Oh!" Icepool widened her eyes. "Your mother was named as a codebreaker?"

Shadowpaw nodded his head miserably and Icepool sighed.

"I'm sorry."

"My other vision showed Bramblestar and Tigerstar fighting."

Icepool blinked in shock. "Tigerstar? *The* Tigerstar?"

Shadowpaw shook his head in alarm, "No, no. Tigerstar the leader of ShadowClan. My father."

Icepool sighed in relief. "That would be terrifying, if Tigerstar came back. The first Tigerstar, I mean." Icepool added quickly.

"So... what do you think my vision meant?"

Icepool paused to think. "Was there anything else noticeable in your vision? Any other visions?"

"Well, I could smell and hear a fire, but I couldn't see any. And there was a lot of ash, so much I nearly chocked on breathing it," Shadowpaw meowed.

"Hm... Maybe it means that the clans are going to start fighting and they're going to need to keep the peace?" Icepool suggested.

"But then what about my other vision?" Shadowpaw asked.

"I... I don't know." Icepool admitted, then paused and added, "Thanks for trusting me enough to tell me."

Shadowpaw smiled. "We're friends. Of course I trust you."

"Do you know how to hunt?" Icepool asked suddenly.

"Hunting?" Shadowpaw wrinkled his muzzle. "I'm a medicine cat. Of course not. Why would I?"

"I can teach you." Icepool offered.

"Okay," Shadowpaw mewed hesitantly.

"Great!" Icepool beamed. "Just watch me and do what I do."

Icepool slid into the hunters crouch and leapt forward onto a pile of leaves. "Now you try."

Shadowpaw did an impressively accurate crouch for a first timer, then leapt at Icepool, who barely jumped away just in time (see picture).

"Oops. I forgot to aim where I was putting my paws." Shadowpaw mewed, seeming embarrassed.

Icepool could hardly stifle her giggles. "That's fine. You should've seen where I landed when I tried my first time. I landed right on top of my mentor!"

"I have to get back now," Shadowpaw stood up and shook a few leaves from his fur. "Thanks for teaching me all this."

"See you tomorrow at the same time?" Icepool asked, and for a half-second she was afraid he would reject her offer.

"Okay," Shadowpaw nodded his head and darted away into the thick ShadowClan pine tree forest.

Icepool groomed herself clean of Shadowpaw's scent, then curled up in her den.

She fell asleep with a smile on her face.

Icepool

Hey guys! This is not an actual chapter, I'm just posting some pictures I made of Icepool on the official warrior cats website.

[image]

[image]

[image]

[image]

[image]

Anyway, whichever picture in this entire book that you like the most is the most accurate that way everyone likes Icepool's look. :)

Quick Note

Happy veterans day everyone!

Chapter 21

((/: Hope you all enjoy this chapter! Sorry I didn't upload yesterday too but you know every human being needs a break for a day or two. Hehehe. Okay, without further ado, onwards we go!

Icepool could hardly believe herself. She was meeting Shadowpaw. Despite how she felt guilty for betraying her Clan, the joyful nerves dancing in her belly disagreed with her morals. Besides, the butterflies dancing in her stomach might have been nothing, as Icepool's stomach had felt weird all day. She leapt nimbly over the familiar fallen tree log, squeezed between two tightly compressed and definitely thorny bushes, then sat down to wait.

"Icepool?"

Icepool whirled around, the fur on her shoulders lifting until she recognized Shadowpaw's amber eyes gleaming in the midnight darkness.

"Oh, it's you. I was scared and thought it was some other cat," Icepool explained, and Shadowpaw shrugged.

"It's okay," Shadowpaw mewed, although something seemed to be bothering him.

"Shadowpaw? What's wrong?" Icepool frowned.

"Icepool, I know Bramblestar is sick," Shadowpaw blurted out.

Icepool leaned backwards, her fur stiff and her expression stunned. "H-how? I didn't tell you!"

Shadowpaw shook his head. "I had a vision. From...StarClan. I think." Shadowpaw muttered the last part.

"They told you?" Icepool knew Bramblestar was still sick, but she hadn't thought it was a big deal. Surely, with both Jayfeather and Alderheart working to heal him, Bramblestar would get better?

"And they told me how to save him." Shadowpaw continued.

"Save him?" Icepool echoed. "You mean it's that bad that he's dying?"

"You're a ThunderClan cat yourself. How come you don't know and I do?" Shadowpaw sounded more confused than annoyed, in fact Icepool didn't think he was annoyed at all.

"Jayfeather and Alderheart aren't allowing anybody but Squirrelflight to visit him." Icepool replied.

"Oh, well, StarClan told me the cure." Shadowpaw looked slightly excited, although anxiety shimmered in his amber eyes.

"That's wonderful! Then Squirrelflight can stop visiting him all the time!" Icepool snorted. "So what herb is it?"

Shadowpaw glanced fugitively around. "Well... it's not exactly a herb."

"Then what is it?" Icepool frowned.

"It's... they told me to bury Bramblestar in the snow, on the cold moor and leave him there to heal. They said his sickness is like a fire and it must be extinguished." Shadowpaw explained, and Icepool's jaw dropped.

"That would kill Bramblestar, not cure him! How could StarClan be such-" Icepool narrowly managed to avoid calling StarClan mouse-brained.

Shadowpaw flinched. "That's what they told me to do."

Icepool sighed. "I know, and I didn't mean to yell at you, I'm just... surprised, is all."

"I know it sounds crazy, but no cat believed Alderheart either when he said the cure for Littlecloud was deathberries, and yet they worked on him, and he's better now. His yellowcough is gone." Shadowpaw stared at her. "Sometimes we just have to trust StarClan and believe in them."

Icepool stared down at the floor and winced as her stomach gave another weird... what was it anyway? A feeling? A jerk?

"Icepool?"

Icepool hardly heard him.

"Icepool?" Shadowpaw sounded more alarmed now. "You look like something's wrong. And... have you been eating more prey than usual?" Shadowpaw sounded a bit embarrassed. "Eh... how to say this? You look a bit... plump?"

Oh StarClan! Icepool shrieked in her head, *I'm pregnant*!

Chapter 22

((/: A.N: Enjoy the next chapter! :D

Icepool stared in alarm at Shadowpaw.

"Shadowpaw," Icepool blurted, "I'm pregnant. With kits."

"With whose?" Shadowpaw blinked in confusion.

Icepool had no idea how to respond. "I don't know but... I think... yours."

Shadowpaw gaped.

"I didn't know until now!" Icepool insisted.

"This is... the clans... Tigerstar..." Shadowpaw still looked stunned.

"Tigerstar and Dovewing did the same thing," Icepool pointed out.

"But I'm a medicine cat!" Shadowpaw still looked shocked.

Icepool rested her head on her paws. "Shadowpaw, I don't know what to do."

Shadowpaw's worry seemed to dull and he sighed. "Everything will be alright. Ca you find some cat in ThunderClan to say your mate is?"

Icepool snorted inwardly. That would be easy. "But... don't you want them to be your kits?"

Shadowpaw sat down next to her. "Of course I do. But this is against the warrior code."

Icepool sighed and stared down at the grass. "Okay. But when they grow up, I'll tell them."

Shadowpaw nodded, his eyes blazing amber. "Tell them."

Icepool sighed and somehow, she knew this would be her last meeting with Shadowpaw.

This isn't fair.

***

The next day, Icepool hurried over to Squirrelflight, trying to look cheerful and also trying to hide her stomach with her tail.

"Hello Squirrelflight!" Icepool announced, trying not to make a scene. "Is Bramblestar getting any better?"

Squirrelflight's green gaze was clouded with worry. "I'm afraid not. He's only getting worse."

"I'm sure he'll get better soon with Jayfeather and Alderheart healing him. They're great medicine cats. And Bramblestar still has um... nine or seven lives left. Something like that." Icepool couldn't quite remember how many lives Bramblestar actually had.

"I hope so," Squirrelflight murmured. "Is there anything else you wanted to tell me?"

Icepool blinked. "Oh, yes. Do you know any cats who uh..." Icepool had no idea how to say this.

"Berrynose and Birchfall?" Squirrelflight offered.

"Okay," Icepool nodded.

"Why did you ask that, anyway?" Squirrelflight frowned.

"Um...I'm uh..."

"Icepool, are you having kits?" Alderheart asked, from where he was coming back into camp with a bundle of herbs stacked in his jaws.

Icepool nodded her head sheepishly.

Oh StarClan here we go.

Chapter 23

"Icepool, you're having kits!" Squirrelflight exclaimed, her expression suddenly bubbling with joy.

"Uh... yeah... isn't that...wonderful?" Icepool mumbled.

"Icepool's having kits?!" Cloudtail asked loudly, sounding confused.

Several cats turned to look at Icepool.

Icepool glared inwardly at Cloudtail. *Wonderful timing, Cloudtail*!

"This is such a happy event... oh, if only Bramblestar were awake to see it." Squirrelflight sighed.

Seriously? *Does everything go back to that pile of fox dung*?

"Uh... yeah, sure," Icepool muttered sarcastically.

"Icepool, this really is great news. Who's the lucky father?" Squirrelflight beamed.

"Uh..." *You really don't want me to answer that.* "I'm uh... not really sure."

Squirrelflight's smile fell an inch before returning again. "Oh! Is that why you were asking about cats?"

"Uh...yeah."

"You should move into the nursery," Alderheart suggested.

"Wait, what?!" Icepool gaped at him. "But...but I'm a warrior!" *And I need to meet Shadowpaw again*!

Icepool has asked Shadowpaw, just before he left, if they could meet again that night, and miraculously, he'd agreed. Icepool hadn't been sure if she was more relieved or nervous.

"No, you're a queen now, which means you need to rest in the nursery," Alderheart mewed, more sternly now.

"But... but..." Icepool struggled to find an excuse.

"I know it's hard, giving up your warrior duties," Squirrelflight began, "And I didn't want to stop helping my clan either, but it's important for your kits."

Icepool opened her mouth to reply some reason for her to stay out of the nursery but found none. "I..."

"You'll be fine," Squirrelflight assured. "Daisy and Sparkpelt will be there too."

Icepool wondered how the thought that Sparkpelt would be there was supposed to help her. Sparkpelt was Squirrelflight other daughter, and not to mention the fact that she was the daughter of that mouse dung Bramblestar!

Sometimes, Icepool actually felt bad for the mice for calling their dung Bramblestar- it was an insult to something she ate and hunted, really.

When Icepool was younger, she used to think Squirrelflight loved Sparkpelt more; Sparkpelt was the daughter of the deputy and clan leader, and not only that but she was a great hunter. Icepool tried to shake the thoughts off her mind, but they stuck to her like thorns.

"Okay," Icepool half-groaned, trying to get her brain working and figure out an excuse. "Um... but how will I get an apprentice if I'm a queen?" Icepool tried, and Squirrelflight rolled her eyes.

"You can have an apprentice when you're back to your warrior

duties, but now, you're going to get your tail in the nursery or so help me drag you in there." Squirrelflight's patience was clearly coming close to it's end.

Icepool dragged her paws into the nursery, which was cramped and she knew would feel even smaller when she gave birth to her kits.

And now I won't be able to see Shadowpaw for moons!

Chapter 24

"I'm leaving ThunderClan for SkyClan."

Icepool, along with every other cat in the clearing gaped in shock at Violetshine's statement.

"You can't! Icepool blurted and her pelt felt hot when Violetshine moved her gaze to her.

"My father is there and... so is my mate."

Everyone's shock went even further.

"Your mate? Who is it?" Icepool demanded.

"Tree."

Icepool's jaw fell open in shock and she shrank away from the clearing until she found herself squashed in the corner of the nursery, thorns prickling at her heart.

Tree? Really?! That cat just completely forgot about me and moved on to ***Violetshine*** *now*?! *If he could mate with a cat from ThunderClan, then why couldn't he stay with me*?

Icepool knew Rootpaw and Needlepaw would be shocked too.

I haven't been spending nearly as much time with them since all this.

Icepool heaved herself to her paws just in time to see Violetshine leave the ThunderClan camp.

"Violetshine!" Icepool called after her and Violetshine turned.

"What?" Icepool could see anxiety in Violetshine's gaze. *She thinks I'm angry with her because of Tree*.

"I'm not angry with you, about Tree I mean. You've been a good friend to me and... and I hope you're happy in SkyClan, with him," Icepool finished and Violetshine nodded.

"Thanks. I'll try to talk to you at the next gathering." Violetshine waved her tail in goodbye and Icepool watched her leave.

I don't need Tree. I have Shadowpaw, and Rootpaw, and Needlepaw, and my future kits, and I have my friend Bristlepaw and Twigbranch.

Icepool sat down beside Needlepaw and Rootpaw and listened to Rootpaw talk about his dream of defeating a family of foxes all on his own.

Everything's going to be fine.

Far away however, a cat was about to return to the clans. A cat with grey fur and bright blue eyes.

DUN DUN DUN!!!

(//: A.N: So by the way I know this chapter is a bit cheesy but I know you guys like Violetshine X Tree so I had to bring her back to SkyClan. And no, this is not the last chapter to this book, although we are getting close to the ending of the first book in 'The Broken Code'. Comment down below if you think that when we get to the point where the first book has finished I should continue this in a separate book or just continue in this book. Personally, I think I should just continue on this book. Anyway, feel free to comment your opinion.

Chapter 25

((/: A.N: Hey guys! So if anyone has a name suggestion for Icepool's kits I will really be over the moon because I'm the worst at coming up with names. I'm planning on giving her three kits but I want to come up with at least one of their names but really ANY name suggestions are going to be really appreciated and I'll give a shoutout for them. Anyway, thanks a lot for just being the awesome readers you are and I hope you enjoy this chapter!

Icepool felt a rush of excitement and dread flood her when she saw Shadowpaw and Tigerstar enter camp.

"Greetings," Tigerstar dipped his head slightly as Squirrelflight padded over.

"Where is Bramblestar?" Tigerstar asked.

"He's out hunting," Squirrelflight lied quickly, "What did you need to tell him? As the clan deputy, I can pass on the message."

"May we speak in private?"

Icepool's pelt itched.

"Anything you wish to say you can say in front of my clanmates," Squirrelflight replied.

What is it that he doesn't want us to hear?

"We know Bramblestar is sick," Tigerstar announced.

Icepool widened her eyes.

I didn't tell Shadowpaw Bramblestar was sick, did I? And if I did, was Tigerstar threatening ThunderClan all because of me?

My heart sank.

"How?" Squirrelflight demanded.

"Shadowpaw has had a vision from StarClan."

Jayfeather looked shocked and padded forward. "No medicine cat has had any vision from StarClan! Why would Shadowpaw, an inexperienced apprentice, have a vision?"

Tigerstar glared calmly at Jayfeather. "StarClan chooses who to send their messages through, not me."

"Did StarClan tell him how to cure him? If, that is, Bramblestar even was sick." Squirrelflight added the last bit hurriedly.

Tigerstar nodded and indicated for Shadowpaw to step forward.

"T-they told me that his sickness is like a fire that needs to be extinguished," Shadowpaw explained, "And that he would get worse before he got better."

"So what is that supposed to mean? What should we do to heal him?" Jayfeather snapped.

"They said to leave him on the cold moor in a den of snow and-"

"That's outrageous!"

"That would kill him!"

"This is just another one of ShadowClan's lies!"

Icepool scowled at everyone and took a small step forward. "Who are we to deny StarClan's wishes? Has StarClan not told us strange things before?" She demanded as Shadowpaw sent her a grateful look.

"Thank you for this information," Squirrelflight nodded stiffly, "We'll think about it."

Tigerstar scowled at everyone, then flicked his tail and both he and Shadowpaw left.

Icepool opened her mouth to ask Squirrelflight something but stopped and instead slid back into the nursery.

Now we have a possible solution...

But will anyone even listen to Shadowpaw?

Chapter 26

Squirrelflight had just finished organizing the patrols, and Icepool was watching clan life go about as usual.

Except something was wrong.

Everyone was either nervous, or thoughtful, or anxious. And Icepool along with every other cat knew why.

Squirrelflight sat down next to Icepool after all of the patrols had been sent and sighed.

"What do you think we should do?" Squirrelflight asked suddenly.

"Do about what?" Icepool tried to blink innocently.

"I mean, do you really think we should leave Bramblestar in the snow on the moor?"

"I don't think StarClan would lie to us. StarClan knows what's best, and besides, Bramblestar still has many more lives. Jayfeather and Alderheart have been trying every herb on him and nothing works. What have we got to lose?"

"StarClan hasn't been communicating with us, so why would they speak to us now, more importantly through a ShadowClan apprentice who isn't even a full medicine cat yet."

Icepool felt her fur begin to bristle. "Shadowpaw isn't just some apprentice! He's a medicine cat! StarClan can choose whoever they want to communicate through, and we should listen to them."

"Is it really worth risking Bramblestar? With StarClan gone, he might not come back to life."

Icepool shrugged, "You wanted my opinion, didn't you?"

Squirrelflight sighed. "Do you really think that's what's best for the clan?"

Icepool paused for a second, then nodded. "We can't go wrong with listening to StarClan."

Squirrelflight sighed again then stood up and padded towards the highrock.

Did I seriously just convince Squirrelflight to do something this huge?

"All cats old enough to catch their own prey gather here beneath the highrock for a clan meeting!" (I hope I got that call right I can't remember it exactly, sorry guys)

The cats drifted away from whatever they were doing and settled themselves to listen to Squirrelflight, and although Icepool had a feeling she knew exactly what Squirrelflight was going to say, she padded over to listen too.

"I have decided to follow out StarClan's instructions," Squirrelflight announced.

"More like ShadowClan's instructions!" One cat grumbled, although Icepool wasn't quite sure who it was.

Squirrelflight fixed a steely gaze on the crowd of cats, and Icepool felt the reality of what was happening really sink into her fur.

Meanwhile, far above in the world of the dead, a dark grey warrior rumbled with glee. Everything was going according to plan.

Chapter 27

((/: A.N: Hey y'all! So yes, Ashfur is returning!

DUN DUN DUNNNNN!

Icepool watched Jayfeather, Alderheart, and a few other cats prepare to leave, bringing Bramblestar along with them.

It's happening.

Icepool had, actually, asked if she could come along, but of course, Jayfeather had (rather rudely, mind you) said no.

"A queen about to give birth to kits anytime now?!" Jayfeather snapped, annoyed. "Are you mouse-brained?!"

Icepool had sworn silently to herself that if Jayfeather ever had a day when he was in a good moon, she'd spend the whole day in

vigil as a thanks to StarClan.

Anyhow, Icepool watched from the entrance of the nursery as the cats prepared Bramblestar and themselves to leave.

Shadowpaw, Dovewing, and perhaps Tigerstar although Icepool couldn't quite remember, would be coming along, as Shadowpaw himself had been the one to deliver the message from StarClan, and Icepool had a sneaking suspicion that any other cats from ShadowClan would be coming along more to protect Shadowpaw if Bramblestar died rather than to find out if Bramblestar had been cured.

"Icepool, it's snowing, you should come back inside the nursery," Daisy suggested from inside.

"In just a minute," Icepool nodded and waved her tail.

After the cats had indeed left, Icepool rose to her paws then froze as pain rolled in her stomach.

Oh StarClan.

Icepool dug her claws into the snowy ground but although she didn't feel or hear it, she let out an anguished wail.

Daisy looked out of the nursery, seeming alarmed, as Icepool fell. "Icepool?!"

Icepool found her breath coming in ragged gasps.

Oh StarClan, she repeated in her head.

"The kits are coming!"

Daisy called.

Chapter 28

((/: A.N: So Icepool's kits are here! Also, TYSM to pussk1n for giving me the name Flowerkit! Sorry so much for the wait but I had to design three new cats as Icepool's kits and it usually takes me one day for one cat. Anyhow, here are Icepool's kits:

[image]

[image]

[image]

Icepool was lost in her own world of love.

Her three kits were snuggled up beside her, each of them perfect in her own way. Icepool had named one of them already; Flowerkit. Flowerkit had ginger and golden fur, with one grey paw and amber eyes just like Shadowsight.

Icepool hadn't even thought of what to do if some cat recognized Shadowsight in the kits, but the thought plagued her like green cough now.

What if some cat finds out?

Icepool slid gently to her paws, nudged her kits warmer into the moss of their nest, then crept to the entrance of the nursery. The

sun was rising, and still, none of the cats had returned, including Bramblestar.

He was a mouse-brain, but ThunderClan still needs a leader, albeit how annoying he may be!

Icepool sighed. She missed Shadowsight and Squirrelflight, and felt a tingle of anxiety as she watched the sun crawl higher and higher into the sky without Squirrelflight and the others returning.

Thud. Bump. Thud. Bump.

Icepool's ears swerved in the direction of the camp entrance and her heart raced, but slowed a bit when she listened carefully.

It sounds as if they're carrying something.

Something limp.

Prey? Icepool thought hopefully although she knew the answer.

Perhaps that was why she felt no surprise when she saw Bramblestar's lifeless body being dragged into camp, with Squirrelflight hanging her head low and her tail drooping, and Jayfeather looking furious.

"Oh no," Daisy whispered as she peeked from inside the nursery.

The entire clan had woken up now, peering with shock down at the cats.

"Bramblestar....is dead."

((/: A.N: Hope you like this chapter! Feel free to comment down below who is your favorite of Icepool's kits and what you liked about them or what you disliked.

~Watermelon.

Chapter 29

Icepool couldn't believe that Bramblestar was dead.

Would Shadowsight really lie to ThunderClan about recieving a vision just to get rid of their leader? Apparently, yes.

That seemed to hurt Icepool a lot more than the fact Bramblestar was actually dead, and the sight of her mother grieving and sitting vigil for him outside of the nursery didn't help.

And neither did the fact Squirrelflight hadn't even acknowledged Icepool's kits.

*For moon's sake, he isn't even your real mate! Ashfur was! Couldn't you at least pop over and say, 'hey Icepool, great job giving birth **without** me because I was ever so busy checking on my dearest Bramblestar'.*

Icepool had a nagging feeling in the back of her mind that she was being selfish but decided to ignore it. Wanting her kits to have attention wasn't selfish!

Icepool licked the heads of her kits. She'd already named one Flowerkit, and she'd decided on Moonkit for the other female, and in honor of her mate, Shadekit for the male.

My mate who possibly just tried to kill Bramblestar.

Icepool shook her head. She didn't believe Shadowsight was capable of something so evil, and she could tell he was telling the truth when he told ThunderClan it was the way to heal Bramblestar.

Out of politeness, Icepool had offered to sit vigil for Bramblestar, but Daisy had ushered her back in the nursery, telling her that she needed to rest.

Albeit the nest she was lying in was made of soft moss and lined with a few feathers, Icepool couldn't sleep. Her kits were another story entirely, snuggling next to her with their minature eyes closed and tiny bodies content. Icepool felt her heart warm up every time she gazed at them. Which was a lot.

"We should bury him now," Someone murmured from outside as the dawn sun was already creeping across the sky.

Icepool saw Squirrelflight nodding her head numbly, then the cats carrying Bramblestar disappeared from her line of vision.

Suddenly, Icepool felt as if some presence flooded into ThunderClan. Icepool shot her head up from her nest, struggling to breathe from it.

You're not supposed to be here, Icepool knew immediately, *you're dead.* Although she wasn't quite sure who she was talking to.

No, this was my place all along.

The same voice from the moonpool rumbled in Icepool's head and she curled herself tighter around her kits as the darkness in the air vanished.

Gasps echoed from the clearing outside the nursery, and curiously with her heart still pounding, Icepool peered from the entrance of the nursery.

Bramblestar stood standing, his fur clean and his figure as strong as ever. He met her gaze and Icepool almost took a step back as she saw something flash in Bramblestar's eyes.

Icepool sucked in a deep breath.

I don't know who that is.

But that's not Bramblestar.

Epilogue

The StarClan cats paced at the edge of the pool. From it's surface, it looked normal, but a few tail lengths down it was blocked by tied, twisted brambles and thorns.

"We have to get a message down to the living cats," Firestar frowned down at the pool.

We ***know***, Firestar," Leapardstar mewed drily.

"We need to tell them that their leader has been replaced," Bluestar added.

"The living cats are smart; maybe this will act as a test for their faith in us," Tallstar shrugged.

"How could they figure out Bramblestar isn't who he appears to be?" Leafpool couldn't help asking.

"They've figured out things themselves before."

"Shouldn't we at least try to give them a prophecy?" Bluestar suggested.

"Who would we give it to?" Leopardstar raised one eyebrow. "Some cat from RiverClan?"

"It should be someone close to the imposter," Bluestar shook her head.

"Squirrelflight?" Firestar looked around.

"Of course he would say that," Leopardstar muttered.

"She's not a medicine cat. She's not used to receiving messages from StarClan. But we will need to convince her, so it needs to be a cat close to her that she would believe." Bluestar shook her head.

Leapool's head snapped up. "Or a cat who used to be a medicine cat."

"Would she believe us?" Leopardstar asked doubtfully.

"She has to," Bluestar gazed grimly around StarClan, "She's every cat's only hope."

***

((/: A.N: Hey guys! So I will be continuing this in another book called, 'Prophecy of the Stars'! If any of you have suggestions for Rootpsring and Bristlefrost's kits names, they're welcome! There will be one kit. Prophecy of the Stars will follow Icepool's kits perspectives as well as a few chapters in Icepool's POV. Also if anybody has some fanart I would love to post a chapter for their fanart. I will also post a sneak peak of Prophecy of the Stars in this book so stay tuned!

Teaser Trailer

PROPHECY OF THE STARS TEASER TRAILER!

Prologue

Icepool twitched in her nest of moss inside of the ThunderClan nursery. 'Bramblestar' had been taken to the medicine den to rest for the day since he'd just come back to life after so long, but she knew something was wrong.

Something was in the air, and it just didn't feel right.

It felt wrong.

Icepool slid out of her nest, gently tugging moss over her kits to keep them warm, then padded across the camp to the entrance. She didn't know why, but something was tugging her outside. Her daughter from her first litter, Needlepaw was on guard tonight, which was strange as a warrior was usually on guard duty.

"Needlepaw? I just need to go out for a little I-" Icepool started then stopped.

Needlepaw turned her head around slowly, revealing ice blue eyes.

"N-needlepaw?" Icepool gaped.

Pawsteps thudded heavily behind her and Icepool whirled around to see Rootpaw slowly emerging from the apprentice's den with the same blue eyes.

"Rootpaw? Needlepaw? What's going on?!"

More pawsteps came from the warriors den and Squirrelflight padded out, the same blue eyes and blank expression on her face.

"Stop it! What's going on?! Answer me!" Icepool screeched half in panic half in anxiety for her family.

Then more cats came until the whole camp was full of cats with the same colored eyes and blank expressions.

Then, most frightening of all, Bramblestar came from the leaders den, a satisfactory expression rather than a blank one, and he had the same blue eyes.

"B-b-bramblestar?"

"THERE WILL BE THREE, KIN OF HIS KIN, WHO WILL HOLD THE FATE OF THE CLANS IN THEIR PAWS!!!" A voice from high above in the stars seemed to bellow in Icepool's ears.

(So sorry guys I know it's very similar to the prophecy from the power of three but I couldn't think of anything else plus it kind of makes sense for this.)

Icepool shot up from her nest sucking in huge gulps of crispy, clean air.

Daisy was sleeping somewhere further in the nest and beside her, Icepool's three kits, Flowerkit, Moonkit, and Shadekit (in honor of his father, Shadowpaw) were snuggled in the moss.

Icepool relaxed her tensed muscles and lowered herself back into the nest.

*It was just a dream. It was **not** a prophecy. StarClan is not speaking to*

me of all cats in the clans.

A star high in the clouds shone brightly.

And that was not StarClan disagreeing with me.

A shooting star sped across the sky.

Oh mouse dung. Icepool cursed.

What am I supposed to do with that now?

FINAL AUTHOR'S NOTE.

((/: A.N: So yes, this book is finally finished and Prophecy of the Stars will be coming out soon! For those of you who want to find it, just click on my profile and look through my works as it will be there.

Hope to see you all there to continue this wild ride!

Edit: This is the link to Prophecy of the Stars:

https://www.wattpad.com/story/356689124-prophecy-of-the-stars

Just copy it and paste it into a web browser if you want to read the next book! If the link doesn't work you can do the first method I mentioned and click my profile and find it in my works.

:)

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR 1K TOTAL READS!

As the title says above, I am SO HAPPY I got to 1k total reads for this story! I just wrote this because this idea has been buzzing around in my head for a while and I wanted to write it out for other people to enjoy.

Thank you all for 1k total.